

John THE *Author*

MOTHER-IN-LAW:

OR, THE
INNOCENT SUFFERER.

Intersperfed with the
Uncommon and Entertaining ADVENTURES
O F

Mr. HERVEY FAULCONER.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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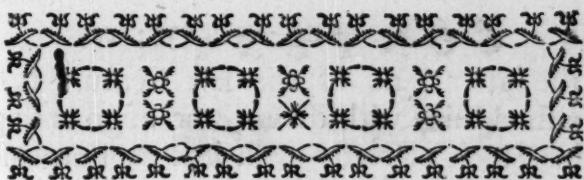
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THE
Mother-in-law;
OR, THE
INNOCENT SUFFERER.

CHAP. I.

Mr. Isaacson's Family. Settlement in Gloucestershire. Marriage. Issue one Daughter. Miss Olympia, her Excellencies. Death of his Lady. No Promise to be made for Futurity.

 *J*AMES Isaacson, Esq; by the
steadiest Application to Traf-
fic in the Mercantile Way, for
a successful Course of forty-
five Years; together with the embracing
of every favourable Occasion, whereof
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the latter End of the last Century; furnished him with divers, for augmenting his Stock of ready Cash into an immense Heap, had amassed together a Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds, at least; when, towards the Beginning of *Queen Ann's* Reign, a violent Fever, after a few Days Seizure of his Person, withdrew him, to render an Account of the Improvement of those Talents that had been committed to him.

As it but seldom happens, that Father and Son are both of equally rapacious Principles, so *Mr. Robert* (as he had been always called in the Family) finding himself now the sole Inheritor of so immense a Fortune, immediately deserted his Father's laborious Track; and having satisfied all his Engagements, and collected his Dependancies together, purchased a fine Seat in *Gloucestershire*, detached from the busy World, and daily contributed to its Increase, by the landed Additaments his Rent-roll continually swelled with.

Robert Isaacson, Esq; was in his twenty-seventh Year, when accidentally falling into Company with a neighbouring Gentleman's Daughter, who captivated him,
without

without any Consideration of her Riches, or what Fortune her Father could make her, he put the Question to the old Gentleman, for his Consent to the Match.

An Offer so palpably beneficial to his Daughter, and having six more of them to provide for, was not, by a considerate Man, by any Means to be trifled with; nor took Mr. *Pagit* (for that was his Name) more Time in deliberating upon his Answer, than just served to signify to the young 'Squire, how happy he should esteem the Alliance of so worthy a Man to his Family.

As to Fortune, he confessed, that though he might be able to bestow sufficient upon his Child, as the Wife of a middling Tradesman; yet, he pretended not a Capacity for advancing proportionably to Mr. *Isaacson's* Estate, or, in any Degree, what he might reasonably demand with a Wife; adding, that he judged it his Duty to mention this, before any further Proceedings were had in the Affair, lest a subsequent Disappointment might be sustained with less Temper on both Sides.

Mr. *Isaacson* replied, that from the Number of Children Mr. *Pagit* had, no

Excess of Fortune could be conceived to fall to each of their Shares: for that when a handsome Inheritance came to be divided into so many Parts, as it was apparent his must, the Individuals must content themselves with but moderate Portions; but added, that in order to put a Stop to all further Debate upon that Head, he had previously resolved, not even to enquire after the young Lady's pecuniary Qualifications, so many of a far more estimable Nature, in his Opinion, having proclaimed to him her personal Worth to be incomparable: So that he should even relinquish what her Father might have allotted as her Dividend, for the Benefit of his other Children, his own Possessions being amply sufficient both for themselves and their Descendants.

So unexpected a flow of Generosity, left Mr. *Pagit* wholly unprovided of Expressions adequate to the proffered Favour; till, after some Recollection, he assured him, how happy he should ever think himself for that Day's Proposal, so far exceeding his warmest Hopes for the Disposition of his dear Child. He told Mr. *Isaacson*, that though he had determined

mined with himself, that no Interview should have passed between him and his Daughter, by way of Courtship, till the Fortune expected with her should have been adjusted between them; which, he confessed, he would have strained a Point, though with no light Inconvenience to himself, to have augmented all that was in his Power: Yet, as Mr. *Isaacson's* Benevolence had silenced all further Scruples in his Breast, he should no longer claim the Right of a Father over his Daughter, but abandon her to her own, and the Will of the most noble-minded Lover that ever Woman was blessed with. My Doors, Sir, added he, will from henceforth be ever open to you, and my Daughter at full Liberty to make you every suitable Return, on her Part, for your so kind Sentiments of her.

Matters being brought to this Issue, the young Gentleman left the Father and Daughter to their own Reflections upon what had happened, till he should have prepared himself for his first Visit to the young Lady herself.

In short, Mr. *Isaacson's* Person proving unexceptionable, his Offers surpassing

her Hopes, and his Address so sincere and engaging, what could interveſte to fruſtrate his Wiſhes with the Lady? She received him as became a virtuous Woman, zealous for a happy Eſtabliſhment in Life, and no further Ceremonies paſſed between them, than were wholly agreeable to both; and in as reaſonable a Time, as ſuch an Affair would, with Decency, admit of, they ſubmitted to the Marriage Solemnity, and he took home the Lady as his Bride.

Whatever Sentiments they might have had of each other, previous to the con-nubial Tye, moſt certain it is, that a Steadineſs of Affection, and an habitual Inclination to delight the Lady on his Part; and the moſt agreeable Condeſcenſion, combined with a moſt amiable Complacency, on hers; for the few Years they were ſo happy as to enjoy each other, rendered them a moſt deſirable Pattern to all Perſons in the Marriage State.

The ſole Iſſue that Mr. *Iſaacſon* ever had by his Lady, was one Daughter, Miſs *Olympia*; the Tenderneſs and Politeness of whoſe Education, can admit
of

of no Scruple, when we consider her as the sole Object of her Parents Sollicitude, and the Inheritrix of their Virtues; with this Addition to her Character, that not a laudable Qualification ever manifested itself in her whole Sex, which appeared not most eminently illustrious in Miss *Olympia*; all which, added to the most exquisite personal endowments, rendered her a perfect Model of all that could be desirable in Woman.

It generally wants but little Assistance from Art, to bias Parents to an over Fondness for their own Offspring, let them prove what they will in the Eyes of the rest of Mankind; but a young Lady, on whom not only Nature had been so lavish, but whom Art had rectified, even to the Consumption of its whole Store upon her, could not escape every Indulgence that her ravished Parents could possibly express for her; and these she ever enjoyed in the higher Perfection; as the Sweetness of her Disposition had deprived her of that Anxiety for her own Gratifications, which is so inherent in the Sex: so that being ever

indifferent about what she might be the most suspected to desire, it was one of the chief Concerns of her Parents, not only to admit of, but even to obtrude upon her, whatsoever made the least Shew of exciting her Inclination.

Miss had, from the first display of her reasonable Faculties, shewn a peculiar Turn in her Disposition for reading, especially of Divinity, which might probably be augmented, with her Years, from the Force of a most extensive Memory, which would retain, even to the minutest Circumstances, almost every Subject she engaged with. Being capable not only of amusing herself in her own Mother-Tongue, but in the *French* and *Italian*, by the Time she was twelve Years of Age: She then sought out for a *Latin* Master, to render her a compleat Student; for that, in each of the other Tongues, she would complain that there was somewhat defective.

Miss had made such a Proficiency in the *Latin* by the Time she was fifteen Years of Age, that she could as fluently converse in that Language, as in *English*; which gave her so much Employment in
the

the learned World, as almost totally to withdraw her from the feminine Engagements of Life : But whilst she was pursuing her Genius this Way, a Misfortune happened, which though it seemed not to promise, was nevertheless productive of the most fatal Train of Consequences that could well befall any Lady, as it eventually reduced her to the utmost Extremities.

What I have above hinted at, is the Death of Miss *Olympia's* Mother, who died soon after her Daughter was turned of fifteen, leaving both her Husband and Child inconsolable for the Loss of her for some Months ; but Time drying up the Source of that Sorrow which daily flowed more sparingly, Mr. *Isaacson* consoled himself for the Loss of a beloved Wife, in the Prospect of such a Daughter as was not matchable in the *British* Dominions ; and this naturally confined that Affection which before was divided between them both, to the single Object of a sole Heiress ; and Miss, receiving so large a Proportion of his Regard, judged herself exceedingly happy in the redoubled Beneficence of so indul-

gent a Father. Thus Affairs stood for near four Years, whilst each strove to out-strip the other, in their mutual Acts of paternal, and filial Duty ; nor had either of them the least Imagination, but of perpetuating the Blessing, till the uncontrollable Hand of Destiny, should irrecoverably snatch them from each other. But what Man is there amongst the whole Race, even of the most penetrating, and self victorious of us, that in the present Instant, can be responsible for his own future Conduct?

C H A P. II.

Mr. Isaacson captivated by Mrs. Rawlins. Goes to London with his Cousin Roberts and Mrs. Rawlins. Wedlock agreed, and Terms proposed. Thinks them hard. Her Reasons to the contrary. He agrees to them. She insists on Miss Olympia being removed from his Family. He consents.

WHilst Matters were sailing on so smoothly between the Father and Daughter, a Kinsman of Mr. Isaacson, and his Lady, who were settled in *Worcestershire*,

cestershire, came upon a Visit, to spend two or three Days with them, in their Way to *London*, and brought with them a Widow Lady, who had passed several of the Summer Months with them, and with whom they were returning to her Habitation at *London*; where, during her late Husband's Life-time, she had resided, he having been a Merchant of peculiar Eminence there, who had left her childless, and the Mistress of a prodigious Ready-money Fortune.

Mr. *Isaacson*, had placed his sole Affection so inseparably, as he thought, upon his Daughter, that though he had made no formal Resolves against a second Marriage, yet ever since the Death of his Lady, he had persuaded himself, that the Interest his Daughter had gained in him, would for ever overballance him to Widowhood, in spite of every Charm, that the whole female World could invite him to the contrary; but since he had passed a few Hours in this Stranger's company, he found a most apparent Alteration in his Sentiments, which encroached so far at length upon him, that the third Day of his Conversation with her had not passed, before he had resolved

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solved upon the Sacrifice of every other worldly Possession, to the pressing Instances of his then Inclination, for ingrossing her in sole property.

The next morning, was appointed by his Kinsman, for their Departure to *London*, and all things were accordingly prepared for the Journey ; but Mr. *Isaacson* had suffered such a conflict in his Breast, for the whole Day, between this novel Passion for the Stranger, and his Love still subsisting for his Daughter, as had almost distracted him ; when willing still to gain further Time for Reflection, he told his Company, that not having seen *London* for some Years, he had a great Inclination to make the Trip, at a time when he should be ascertained of their Society there ; but as it would be impossible for him to be in readiness to set out with them, upon so short a Warning ; unless they would condescend to stay a Day or two longer with him he must postpone his Journey to another Opportunity.

Mr. *Roberts* (that being his Kinsman's Name) and his Lady, were so pleased at the thoughts of their Cousin's Company, that they readily agreed to wait, and
soon

soon brought over Mrs *Rawlins* (the strange Lady being so called) to their Pleasures.

Miss and her Father were now at work, for collecting a suitable Apparatus for the Tour; nor conceived the young Lady a little Delight from the vast Expectations she had been filled with, of a Place she had never as yet beheld, but now hoped for the full Gratification of her Curiosity in. She therefore expedited her Preparations with the greater Alacrity, for the sake of that practical Knowledge and Experience, which she had solely imbibed hitherto in Speculation; and Mr. *Isaacson*, for the sake of a free and lasting Enjoyment, of the valuable Society of Mrs. *Rawlins*, post-poned every other Consideration to that alone: So that having delayed their Friends, for two Days only, they all set forward for their Journey, upon the third.

The longer Mr. *Isaacson* had confined his Conversations with Mrs. *Rawlins*, the deeper Impressions made that Lady upon his Faculties, till at length, the Wound became incurable, but by administering the holy Unction of Matrimony.

Upon

Upon their arrival in Town, Mr. *Isaacson's* Company *being unprovided of a Lodging ; Mrs. *Rawlins* declaring how welcome they should be, invited them to take up with an Appartment in her House ; but as his Kinsman's Family were to reside there, he chose not to add to the trouble her House would sustain with them, and therefore declining the Invitation, took up with a publick Inn, till he could be otherways accommodated, near to his adored Mrs. *Rawlins*. However, she prevailed for their dining with her the next Day, in order, as she said, to talk over the Passages of their past Journey.

Mr. *Isaacson* was now fairly engaged with the Widow, whom he found no ways at Enmity with the Male World. She received his Visits, and he, no little Assistance his in Suit, by the means of his Relation, in whom she placed an entire Confidence, as to the Estate, and Merits of her Lover : So that not many Days had passed, before they had so good an Understanding together, as to begin the exercise of every decent Familiarity, without any of those Formalities, so much practised by the uncertain Courtier.

They

They came next to consider, the previous Terms of their Union, as to Fortune, Settlement, Pin-money, and a future Provision for the Issue, to proceed from their joint Endeavours ; when Mr. *Isaacson* having before, by Degrees, turned almost all his moneyed Estate into Land ; she insisted, that in Consideration of the ample Fortune she should bring him, the same, (excepting ten thousand Pounds which she would reserve for her own Purpose) should likewise be disposed of for real Estate, and jointly with his Estate, settled upon her, and her Issue by him.

It is true, her Fortune might have purchased her the Degree of a Countess ; but then, Mr. *Isaacson* had a Daughter already, for whom he must make a Provision, suitable to her Merits ; and this he told the Lady ; but she, still insisted upon the Whole being settled, as she had before proposed, nor would she ever depart from it, she assured him : For Sir, said she, I consider things thus. The Estate we shall be possessed of, will produce Annually, far more than we can consume, and consequently, the Savings from it will be very considerable. These accumulated for some Years, will be at
your

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your own Dispose, and may, by your Will, be given to your Daughter, at your Pleasure ; but as for me and my Children, I am ever for proceeding upon sure Grounds, and love to know what I have to trust to, as it becomes every prudent Woman to do.

Though Mr. *Isaacson* esteemed his Daughter, as he had ever suspected, above all other things ; yet his Mistress had now gained such an Ascendant over him, that he had not the least Capacity left for opposing her Resolution. It is true, he urged many things in opposition to her Determination ; as their living to the extent of their Income, the Neglect of a Will, accidental loosing it, and the Uncertainty of his own Life, in case he should prove ever so careful in making a Reserve for his Daughter ; whereby, he might even lack Time to do it in ; but her Answers were ready and at her Tongue's end, that as they were neither of them of a wastful Disposition, their own Prudence would induce them to live within Compass ; as for neglecting a Will, he might make it upon his wedding Day, and he must be a careless Man indeed, who should loose a thing of such Consequence ;

quence ; nor were either of them so old, or so ailing, she told him, that they need fear a Call to the other World, before what she purposed would be compleated; nay, in case of her own death happening first, he would then have the enjoyment of her Wealth, and might in few Years, if he pleased, make Miss a better Fortune, than any of *her* Children.

Finding all his Arguments to be spent in vain, and that the Tide might be reverted, with equal Facility, that the least of her Positions were to be silenced by his Rhetorick ; he complied with this hard Sentence, and told the Lady, that it should be as she required ; hoping then, that he had paved so smooth a way to his future Felicity, that no further Rub could have presented, to their instantly engaging in Matrimony ; but he was mistaken : For, having at her Request, penned down the Result of their present Conference, for the Direction of her Lawyer, in his Preparation of the Settlement, as she told him ; she then put the Question to him, how he purposed to provide for Miss *Olympia*, upon their Marriage ? As for that, he replied, that he gave himself but little Concern ;
for

for that her Taste ran so upon Books, that supply her but with choice of them, and allot her a Room, as distant as possible from the hurry of the Family, and she would not often interrupt them, but at Meal time ; nor indeed, would she seldom deprive herself even of that so necessary Function, as she esteemed most of her Time little better than lost to her, which passed in any Avocation from her Studies.

I hope, Sir, said Mrs. *Rawlins*, that you have too good an Opinion of my Understanding, to imagine I shall ever consent live in my own Family, under the Eye, and Censure of other Folk's Children. Would you be pleased, to see all my Actions scanned over, and reflected on, between your Daughter and any one of my Female Domesticks, as she shall please to make a Confident of ? O ! what caballing, and Intrigues, shall I have carrying on against me in my own House ! What Flings, what thwarting of me, in every thing that I shall propose, for the Utility of my Family ! And what is worse, should I ever pretend to contradict Miss, will she not fly in my Face, with what have you to do with me ? You are no
Rela-

Relation of mine. It is sufficient for me to please my Papa, and doing that, I shall act my own Pleasure.

These, and such like, added she, I can already perceive to be the Taunts that I must subject myself to, whilst Miss and I shall remain under the same Roof together; for which Reason, a prudential Forecast obliges me, to insist upon her Removal, before we engage too far to retreat with Honour: Nor is it her bare temporary Removal that I must insist upon; but that, upon no Account, during our joint Lives, she be admitted to the Family, in other Capacity than that of a Visiter, barely, for an Hour or two, or so.

Mr. *Isaacson*, was ten times more thunder struck with this peremptory Demand, than with the other, relative to the Disposal of his Estate; for in that, he hoped he might have a Prospect of making ample Provision for his Daughter; but in this, he must be debarred even the Sight, and Conversation of her, and must abandon her to the Oversight and Tuition of others, who might possibly pervert, not only her Morals, but those
Qua-

Qualifications also, for which she was already so eminently famous.

After a Pause of a few Minutes; Madam, said he, though I cannot pretend to deny the Possibility of your Positions, in some Cases; yet, you may from me assure yourself, that my Daughter is no less removed in her Disposition, from the common run of young Ladies in this Age, than the Poles of the Heavens are from each other. Her Studies are her sole Delight, nor has it ever been in my Power to remove her from them, to look into my own family Affairs. She is no Gossip, declines all such Visits as may withdraw her from her Books, nor converses she with any other, than some times the Clergy, and some of the Literati.

The very Reason, have you alledged for her Departure, replied Mrs. *Rawlins*. Pride, is natural to our Sex; and what can prove a solider Foundation for it in Miss, than that she not only excels the Family she lives in, but even out-shines most of her own Sex? Now, what does Pride more significantly illustrate itself by, than the Contempt of all By-standers? Am not I then to be one of these, constantly,

stantly, in her View? And if so, you may assure yourself, her Vanity will not permit her to separate me, from the groveling Herd about her.

Allow but this to be the Case, the contrary whereof, no Plausibility of Argument shall ever induce me to credit, and then, what a fine Dilemma shall I be reduced to, either of submitting to her supercilious Scorn of me, or to the exciting perpetual Broils between you and me, in order to rid my Family of her. No, no, Sir, added she, as I said before, I love to embark upon a sure Bottom.

As all that Mr. *Isaacson* might have added, would but have amounted in the End, to no more than what he had before urged, he restrained himself from contradicting her; and not in the least doubting, but after they should have been Man and Wife for a few Weeks, she would be complaisant enough to consent to the Recall of his Daughter home, he consented to this Article also; and Madam herself, having taken upon her the Management of the Settlement, Preparations went forwards on both Sides, for accelerating the nuptial Ceremony.

C H A P.

C H A P. III.

Declares his Intent for Marriage to Miss, and that she must quit his Family. Her Astonishment. Miss Olympia's pathetic Reply to her Father. He is stung by it. Her Reply. Miss to be removed to Mr. Roberts's House. Her Father promises fair. States to Miss how he purposes to provide for her. Miss insists upon not attending the Solemnity, nor paying any Compliment to her new Mother thereon.

THOUGH a Man may be ever so readily drawn into a destructive Scheme; yet he is always so conscious of its Detriment, that if he resolves to prosecute it, he scarce durst trust himself with the least Reflection upon it; much less, dares he to communicate it to any other person. This was now Mr. *Isaacson's* Case; for he strove, by a perpetual Hurry that he kept himself in, to foregoe all Cogitations upon the senseless Bargain he had made; nor could he once gain the Mastery over himself, to afford the least Hint of it to Miss *Olympia*, till the
very

very Evening preceding the Day of the marriage Solemnity ; when approaching her Chamber, my Dear, said he, I have for some time had Thoughts of a second Marriage, and having in Mrs. *Rawlins*, found a Lady who most exact ly suits my Inclinations, I have for some time been in Treaty with her, and we purpose to be married To-morrow. To-morrow ! Sir, replied Miss, that is short Warning, indeed, for me to be ready to appear in.—Bless me ! Sir, added she, it will be necessary for me, to have a new Suit or two upon the Occasion, which can never be procured upon this short Notice. It is possible, you may require me to attend you to the Church, and what a Figure shall I make, in an old Suit, that has been the common Hackney ever since we have been in Town ! I protest, I shall blush for myself, upon your Account ; as every one knows me for your Daughter.

I believe, *Olly*, said Mr. *Isaacson*, there may be no Occasion for you at the Ceremony ; since I have agreed, that you shall quit my Family, before we set out for the Church ; but Child, added he, I shall take care to place you, where you
will

will be as perfectly well accommodated, as with me, and be still among your Friends and Relations.

The bursting of this heavy Cloud over her Head, had well nigh struck Miss to the Earth, never to rise more; nay had most undoubtedly so done, but that a most prodigious Shower of Tears rushing forth, gave Vent to the several Passions she then laboured with.

These, for some Time obstructing the Articulation of her vocal Organs, she issued forth her Woes only in Sighs and Sobblings, till by Degrees, moderating her Grief: Alas! Sir, said she, what is to become of me? Am I to be made an Outcast from the Family of my once so tender Father? Am I so far to be suspected to have cast off all filial Obedience to you, as not to be endured in the same House with Mrs. *Rawlins*, your intended Bride?

It is true, I have long had Reason to believe, that a Match between her and you was in Agitation; nor did it give me the least Concern, for any personal Abatement of Fortune to me, that might happen from it; my Ambition, has ever been turned to more noble Pursuits than
Gran-

Grandeur, and so that you pleased but yourself, Sir, I was easy; but what am I now to judge, Sir, when I find myself abandoned by you, to wander, wherever I can find a Home?—O! could my poor dear Mother but behold my Misery!

Mr. *Isaacson* had borne up with undaunted Fortitude, till these last Words of his Daughter stung him to the very Soul, and forced from him such Compunction, as he could no longer conceal: For his Tears flowed involuntarily, and his Passions, in turn, became little inferior to those his Daughter had just reclaimed herself from; nor were these a little heightened, by the Coolness wherewith Miss demanded, whitherto, it was his Pleasure that she should retire? For finding that the Transition was to prove so sudden, from his Family to some other, she should take it as a Favour, at once, to hear her Destiny from his own Lips.

This Speech of his Daughter, whilst his Heart was so full of Ideas already, sufficiently tormenting to him, wrought like Oyl upon the burning Coals, and only served to enrage him the more extravagantly; till his Suffering grew so

intolerable, that he cried out, in a sort of Distraction: No, my dearest Child shall never leave me: Sooner shall the Frame of universal Nature suffer Dissolution, than ever I will part with my beloved *Olly* from my Embraces.—Then, flooding himself in Tears again;—with what Face, added he, can I fly from my Promise?——It favours of a fickle Temper.—Yes, my dearest *Olly*, thy gentle Nature will make a Merit of Compliance with thy Father's Foibles.—I know thou wilt, for my future Peace, retire, to save my Word, my Credit.

I am ready, Sir, replied Miss, not only to cast my Person, but my Life also, at your Feet; then tell me but the Station you have appointed my Removal to, be it to the farthest Part of the known habitable Earth, there will your *Olympia* find her self, with all imaginable Expedition. Then point to me at once the Place of my Retreat, my Presence shall no longer be a Burthen to my ever honoured Father.

This Speech of Miss, which she followed by a fresh Current from her Eyes, redoubled her Father's Weeping: So that they both sobbed on for a considerable

derable Time, before either of them could proceed a Word further.

At length, Mr. *Isaacson* taking Shame to himself, for what he esteemed a personal Weakness; my dear, said he, to his Daughter, I am sorry it should so happen; but I am so infatuated with Love to this Woman, that I cannot bestow the necessary Regard that I ought upon you. I am satisfied, your Solidity of Judgment will rather pity, than deride my Foible, and I hope you will comply with my Desires, without repining.

I have already acquainted my Cousin *Roberts* with the Necessity I am under of disposing you somewhere, and have entreated for the Favour of an Assylum for you in his House, where his Lady, a most ingenious Companion for you, will endeavour to render your Life as agreeable as possible to you, till I can bring it about, (as I doubt not but ere long I shall) that your Merit may meet its due Esteem, under my own Wing: Bear up therefore, my dear, cheerfully, and though not altogether with your own Choice, yet for your Father's Interest, make a Seclusion of yourself from

his House agreeable to you; for, believe me, my dear, you will be rather more my Concern in your Absence, than was you to be ever present with me; and let what will happen, you may still, with the profoundest Confidence, rely upon my contributing every Thing in my Power, to your Delight and Gratification.

Miss answered him, that being his Pleasure, she should ever endeavour to render her Abode in her Cousin's Family acceptable both to herself and him; but hoped, she said, that he had not neglected to make some Provision for her, in case he should have Children by Mrs. Rawlins.

He fairly, and candidly laid before her, what sort of a Settlement he had made; but assured her, that none of the personal Estate that he should be possessed of at his Death, would come either to his Wife, or her Children; but was designed wholly for herself; and my dear, added he, as I shall have upwards of nine thousand Pounds a Year coming in, my full Resolution is, at all Events, to expend but four of them; so that I shall

shall have an increasing Fund of five thousand Pounds a Year, wholly applicable to your Fortune. This, in four Years, with the Increase of it, which I shall annually add to your Capital, will amount to twenty thousand Pounds and upwards, and will serve to marry you to as much Grandeur as you can well desire; especially, when I shall annually add the above Sum of five thousand Pounds to it, which may in my Life-time, according to the number of Years I may expect to live, amount probably, to fourscore, or a hundred thousand Pounds, before you will have received the whole of your Portion; and with this, he seemed to give himself abundance of Pleasure; but Miss, who rather examined into the other Side of the Question, though she would not willingly add to her Father's Disquiet, could nevertheless, not forbear, with a deep Sigh to reply; I pray the Almighty to preserve your Life Sir, his Will be done.

Her Father then giving her a Kiss, as he was parting with her, Miss told him, she presumed, that his Nuptials would be consummated at his Bride's Dwelling,

as being far more capacious, and magnificent, than the strait Lodgings he was then in; so that she hoped, she should have no Occasion for shifting her Quarters, till her Cousin *Roberts's* Return to the Country; but begged it as a Favour of her Father, that she might neither be compelled to attend the Solemnity, nor required to pay any Visit, by way of complimentary Homage, to a Mother, whose Heart could never be with her, and whose Artifices had already prevailed for her Expulsion from his Family.

As to the first, her Father assured her she should not; but as to the latter, he said, it would but prove a necessary piece of her Duty to him, that she should wait upon them, with her Gratu- lations upon the Occasion; however forced they might be, as it would be but a matter of Ceremony.

To this Miss replied, that should he put a Constraint upon her to obey him in that Particular, which she hoped he never would, she must look upon it as beneath the Dignity of her Nature, so far to falsify her Heart, as to either wish her Joy, or to pay the least Token of
Respect

Respect to her. She added, that she had always esteemed herself happy in two Fathers, both of whose Injunctions, as never hitherto clashing, she had made it her Study sedulously to obey. She still, she said, hoped she had an Interest in them both, though one of them, without any Fault of her's, had in some Measure forsaken her, which she was ascertained the other never would do, but from Motives arising wholly from herself; and these, it was her Resolution never to afford him upon any Consideration whatsoever: Now this she must submit to, she said, should she condescend with her Tongue, to bely the true Sentiments of her Soul, which, and only which, she should unreservedly publish, whenever she should be obliged to associate herself to his intended Lady; and therefore, to avoid all Occasion of Offence, she intreated him to excuse her Absence; upon which her Father left her.

C H A P. IV.

Miss uneasy at not seeing her Father. The Bride begins to shew her natural Complexion. Mr. Isaacson Henpecked. Fix their Journey for the Country, and how Miss is to go. She gives them the Slip, and goes in the Stage. Leaves a Letter behind for her Father. Wise Caution. Her Father terrified, till better informed. His Lady's Fleers at him upon the Occasion. He refuses to shew her Miss's Letter. The Consequence. Complies. She remarks upon the Letter, and threatens him.

THE Ceremony took Place the next Day; nor did Miss *Olympia* once see her Father in ten Days afterwards, his Time being so wholly ingrossed in the Receipt of Visits, from all his Lady's former Acquaintance, of which she had an extravagant Number. This Miss took somewhat amiss of her Father; for that her Lodgings being no farther removed from him than the next Street, she could not forbear taxing him with Unkindness to her who had never offended him.

Mrs.

Mrs. *Roberts*, indeed, called upon her several Times in that Space, and once or twice passed the whole Afternoon with her, which Miss esteemed as a Favour; not that she wanted more engaging Society than that of her closeted Authors; but as it shewed her she was not totally neglected by the whole Family.

They intended to spend about two Months in Town, to settle the new Bride's Affairs, before they set forwards for *Gloucestershire*; in which Time, Mr. *Isaacson*, who delighted solely in a rural Retirement, would have persuaded his Lady to let her House, being a very large and expensive one, wherein she had many Years of a long Term to run, as would be the saving of a large annual Charge, he said, to them who should have no manner of further Use for it; but the Lady, seeming under an Excess of Surprise at his Preachment, replied, that she hoped he purposed not to mew her up continually in a Country Habitation, under the scanty Privilege of conversing with his formerly Tenants Wives only, by which Means she might even forget her own Mother-Tongue in a

Twelvemonth. No, truly, she said, she had received another sort of an Education, which had inspired her with more exalted Notions of Life ; and if she submitted annually to an Exile of three or four Months, in the lonesom Wilds of Retirement, it would be only for her Health sake, and to sublimate the Enjoyment of the princely Amusements of *London*, at the proper Season of their Exhibition ; nor could she accommodate herself with a more agreeable Habitation, at such Times, than in the Center of the Quality, and the politer Part of Mankind ; therefore, she should only leave a Man and Maid Servants in her House till her Return, as a Security to her Furniture, and to keep the Dust from gathering to a Head, to its Prejudice.

Mr. *Isaacson* was wise enough soon to see, that by his precipitate Marriage with a Lady, whom he as yet knew not perfectly, he had made an egregious Fool of himself: but since the Time was passed, that he had ever hoped for the Exertion of a Will of his own, and as there could be no Expectation of Peace in his Family, unless he would subscribe
to

to his new Lady's, without any more to do, he delivered over the Reins into her Hands, and, as quietly as ever he could, submitted to the Shackles she was every Day forging for him.

Their Journey to *Gloucestershire* was now fixed, and Miss was to have gone in the same Coach with her Cousin *Roberts* and his Lady; but Miss considering, that at every Bait upon the Road, she must be necessitated to accompany with her Step-mother; and that, possibly, in some or other of such Interviews, Occasion might be given her for exposing her Mind more lavishly than would be consistent with her Duty to her Father; which, should it happen, herself should repent of; she most prudently formed the Resolution of avoiding the Journey with them, and though she all along seemed to prepare for consorting with them, having packed up all her Things in Readiness, she set out in the *Worcester* Stage, very early in the Morning, the Day before their Departure, with her little Family of a Man and Maid Servants, for her Cousin's House at *Whitworth*; but lest this Flight should prove grie-

grievous to her Father, as he would not know what Course she might have taken, she first wrote him the following Letter, which she left with the Lady of the House she lodged at, to be delivered to whomsoever her Father should send thither to enquire after her.

Miss *Olympia Isaacson*, to *Robert Isaacson*, Esq;

Most honoured Sir,

‘ **T**HE Duty I pride myself ever to
 ‘ have owed to the most benign of
 ‘ Parents, and worthiest of Men, has
 ‘ engaged me in the single Step, I ever
 ‘ in my whole Life took without your
 ‘ previous Concurrence; and which gives
 ‘ me, therefore, the more Concern, hereby to exculpate myself from.

‘ You had been so good, Sir, as to
 ‘ procure me a Corner in my Cousin
 ‘ *Roberts’s* Coach to *Worcestershire*, an
 ‘ Alternative, by far more agreeable to
 ‘ your Lady and me, than in your own;
 ‘ nor doubt I, but you intended it for
 ‘ both of our Benefits: But Sir, as the
 ‘ little

‘ little Pride I am Mistress of, will not
‘ voluntarily permit me to expose myself,
‘ where my Presence may prove disagreeable but to a single Member of
‘ the Company ; and forasmuch as my
‘ natural Disposition will not suffer the
‘ least personal Indignity unanswered ;
‘ and as we must all meet, necessarily,
‘ at Meal and Bed-Times, so first Looks,
‘ then Words, may most probably arise
‘ between your Lady and me, till they
‘ may burst into such a Flame, as may
‘ prove both unpleasant to your Ears,
‘ and consequently, of the utmost Concern to me upon your Account.

‘ For this Reason it is, Sir, that I set
‘ out this Morning in the Stage Coach
‘ for *Whitworth* ; nor doubt I, but your
‘ cool Reflection will judge this Step so
‘ prudently taken by me, as readily to
‘ acquit me for it.

‘ I heartily wish you a safe Journey,
‘ and much more Satisfaction in your
‘ revived State, than I must own I can,
‘ with the least Assurance, promise myself will ever fall to your Lot ; but
‘ that I may prove mistaken, and that
‘ every temporal Felicity may, to your
‘ latest

38 *The MOTHER-IN-LAW; or,*
‘ latest Moments, attend you, is, and
‘ shall ever be, the Prayer of,

‘ *Dear Sir,*

‘ *Your most dutiful, and*

‘ *obsequious Daughter,*

April 12, 1722.

‘ *OLYMPIA ISAACSON.*’

Miss had not judged at all amiss, in leaving the above Letter for her Father at her Departure : for when the Servant who was sent to inform her what Hour Mr. *Roberts* would call to take her up the next Morning, that she might be ready against the Time, returned, and gave Notice in the Family, that the young Lady had left her Lodgings that Morning, before it was well light, and had not only taken her Servants, but her whole Baggage with her in a Hackney Coach ; this no sooner reached her Father’s Ears, than he grew almost raving, at the Thought of what might befall her in her Exile ; and the more so, for that he must remain ignorant of the Course she would take, the View of it, or the Miseries

Miseries she might sustain in her Absence from him.

Willing, however, to gain the minutest Information that was possible, from the Mouth of the Bearer of this Report, he ordered the Fellow before him for Examination ; commanding him, impartially to state to him, all that he had collected relative to his young Lady's Departure, and the Cause of it, and to what Point she had steered, and from whom he had received his Intelligence.

The Fellow replied, that being sent of an Errand to Miss *Olympia*, he inquired for her of the Maid of the House, who gave him for Answer, that she left her Mistress's Lodgings at peep of Day in the Morning, and had taken both her Servants, and all her Things with her ; that asking whither she was gone to, and when she expected her back again, the Maid replied to the first, that she knew nothing of it ; and to the latter, that Miss had wholly left her Apartment.

Mr. *Isaacson* fell into a furious Passion at his Servant, for taking an Answer, in so critical a Case, from a poor ignorant Kitchen Wench, whom his Daughter could

could not be suspected of making her a Confident in her Proceedings ; and chiding him for not applying to the Lady of the House herself, sent him instantly back again, to bring him, from the Lady's own Mouth, the most ample Account of Things that she was able to give him.

These high Debates below Stairs, having reached Mrs. *Isaacson's* Ears, brought her down in a violent Hurry, to partake of the Occasion of them, but not before the Servant was gone off with his Message, and his Master had quitted the Parlour ; so that Mrs. *Roberts*, whom she found there, was obliged to satisfy her Curiosity with the whole Story.

O! these Headstrong young Wenches, said she ; what, I suppose now her Father is married again, she looks upon herself as a Lady at large, to dispose herself uncontroulably ; but its well I have nothing to do with her, or she should feel the Weight, not only of my Resentment, but my Hand too, I can promise her.

Her Husband returning at this Instant, so Sir, said she, I have borne Witness to the Outrage you have committed ;
nor

nor could I imagine what it should be that had so stirred your Cholar, till Mrs. *Roberts* tells me you have lost Miss *Olympia*: but why so indulgent a Father should be angry, added she, that his Daughter has pleased herself, I cannot conceive; though truly, continued she, this is what one could scarce have expected, from so recluse and studious a Lady, as you have, upon some Occasions, represented her to me; nor can I say, it seems wholly consistent with the prudential Maxims you have imagined her replete with. Alas! my Dear, added she, it never yet entered into my Head, that my Sex could advance either their Prudence or Virtue, by being Mistresses of a few Scraps of *Latin*: but if these Qualities vary according to the Language one imbibes them in, and the old *Heathenish*, be the only Tongues for conveying them, L—d have Mercy upon the Ladies of *Great-Britain*, I say.

Mrs. *Isaacson*'s Harrangue had held so long, that before her Husband could form any Reply to her, his Messenger was returned; and the Discovery he should make being far more material to his Master, than his Lady's Flippantness, he
turned

turned his Ear wholly to him, whilst he delivered himself to the following Purpose ; that he had seen the Lady at whose House Miss had lodged ; but upon putting his Master's Questions to her, she could answer no more particularly than her Maid ; that Miss was gone she knew not whither ; but the Fellow fumbling in his Pocket, added, that the Lady had delivered him a Letter from Miss to his Master, if he could but find it, still fumbling, and plucking every Thing out of all his Pockets, till he had almost loaded two Chairs, without the least Appearance of a Letter.

Mr. *Isaacson's* Impatience for the Letter, had cast him into such a Rage, as was scarce to be appeased, but by the Sufferings of the thoughtless Transgressor ; nor would he have been restrained from the free Exercise of his Cane upon the Culprit's Shoulders, had not Mr. *Roberts* and his Spouse interposed, to prevent it, and at the same Time, ordered the Fellow back again, in search of it.

Mr. *Isaacson's* Lady, who enjoyed every Occasion of Discontent that Miss *Olympia* could minister to her Husband, had scarce ever been better diverted than at
this

this Scene; and in the Absence of the Servant, used every means to whet his Resentment to more Keeness, against such a judicious, and studious Lady, as she greatly affected to stile Miss, by way of Contempt and Derision; but her Husband's Passion being far from subsided, had not the Fellow returned as he did, with the Letter in his Hand, he had rung such a Peel in Madam's Ears, as might have made her remember it, for Months afterwards.

The Fellow then seeing his Master in such a Passion, as he had never before beheld him in, trembling, produced the Letter; which the other as rapaciously seized, as this cautiously extended to him; when breaking the Seal, after perusing it for a few Moments, he twisted it in a Heap, and thrust it into his Pocket; resuming a placid Smile, when he told the Company, that his Daughter had only gained a day's March of them, and that she set out that very Morning for *Whitworth*.

Mr. *Isaacson*, now aimed at diverting their Discourse into another Channel; but though his Intent was prudent, it was very far from answering the Purpose she had

had projected, of dropping all Discourse of his Daughter: For his Lady, who abominated the least Symptoms of Affection between them two, said, she hoped he would give her an Opportunity of participating in his Pleasures, by a sight of the Letter that had caused so instant an Alteration in him.

Her Husband assured her, it was only a bare Information of her Journey, and was wholly immaterial, for other perusal than his own; wondering, he said, for what Reason she wanted to be scanning it: But the Words were scarce out of his Mouth, before Madam's Face was all covered with Water, the Tears trickling down her Cheeks in Abundance. O! What a State had she reduced herself to, with a Man who was fearful of making her his Confident, in a Message from his own Daughter to him! Wretched Woman! That she was; but this was only a Prelude, she supposed, to the Rebuffs she should meet with, when he had secured her in his own Territories in the Country; but truly, if that was to be the Case, he should find it a difficult Task ever to inveigle her thither: For though she would not oppose following the Man
that

that she loved, to the Earth's utmost Confines, yet she could never affect that Man, who made not equal Returns, and above all Things, placed not an unlimited Confidence in her.

Mr. *Isaacson* might as well have complied with a good Grace at first, as have been drawn Head and Shoulders into the same thing afterwards; and this, when it was too late, he wished he had done; but then, from the Reason that Miss had alledged for her Departure, so abruptly, he expected such a Scene to begin, upon his Lady's Notice of it, as would prove most abhorrent from his open, and generous Disposition. However, as nothing less than yielding to her Request would satisfy her, he at length, under some Reluctance, acquiesced to it.

No sooner had the Lady satisfied her Curiosity, than with an Air of Disdain, tossing up her Nose at her Husband; the saucy impertinent Puss, said she; whence knows she, but from you Sir, how agreeable her Passage in Mr. *Roberts's* Coach would have been to me?—What an impudent Sneer does she proceed with, by pointing out me, as the single Person her Company would be disagreeable to?

to?—A Lady of the strictest Honour too! I'll warrant you, added she, this Minx would pretend to be; but what above all raises my Contempt of her Scholarship is, the prophetick Conclusion that she draws, from first our Looks, then Words, which rising (as she expected) to a tremendous Flame, might discompose you Sir, added she: For that I perceive is her chief Concern.

A very pretty Person this, my Dear, said she, to have been retained in your Family, to my Confusion: For if at a Distance, she dares to vilify my Reputation so infamously to you, and with your seeming Approbation too, had she been admitted to a more intimate Access to me, I must have lived in Dread of my own personal Safety from her.

I am sincerely pleased, added she, with this Sketch of the Lady's natural Complexion, and be assured, Sir, that from the first Interview you shall henceforth have of each other, you may be at Liberty to recall her home to you, in the stead of an injured Wife, no more to be devoted either to your Bed, or Board: for from the next Piece of Correspondence that shall

I shall never be exchanged between you, I shall fly your House, as from a Pestilence; and saying this, she turned out of the Room, and left him.

C H A P. V.

Repents his Marriage. Fears to oppose his Wife. Mrs. Roberts is to advise her. Her gentle Behaviour to Mrs. Roberts. Surprising Meeting between Mr. Isaacson and his Lady. She turns his Delight to her own Purposes. Wheedles him out of a new Equipage, China, &c. till drained of his Cash.

THE little Enjoyment Mr. *Isaacson's* Lady afforded him of his Life, had many times, even within the two first Months of his Nuptials, disqualified him for the *Essex* Bacon; and though she brought him an immense Fortune, yet gladly would he have doubled it from his own Estate, and have abandoned both to the next Comer, who could at the same time have eased him of his Lady too; but all was in vain. He had all along lived in the Delights of the Marriage

Marriage State with his first Wife, which Reflection but augmented his Distress, at finding himself thus henpecked by a second ; nor could he possibly form a Resolution of pulling her down in her Wedding Shoes, and signifying to her, that as Nature had formed him for it, he resolved to be Master of his own Family : For having ever enjoyed himself in the sweets of Peace and Plenty, the very Thought of that force he must put upon his own Disposition, and probably, the long Continuance of it, before he might be capable of demonstrating that he was in the quiet Enjoyment of the Breeches, quite quashed every rising Suggestion, for putting the Attempt in practice.

The only Method, as Matters were circumstanced, that he could resolve upon taking was, to engage Mrs. *Roberts* to catechise his Lady a little, and to advise her to more Moderation in her Behaviour to him, by laying before her the Perturbations of his Mind, arising from her Heats and Passions. This, though but an undesirable Office to most Folks, yet the good Understanding that had for a long Time subsisted between them two, in some measure, intitling her to almost every

every Freedom, she resolved to attempt it as the very next Day : For Madam had declared she had farther Business in Town, and should not stir to the Country for a Week, at least ; so that their Journey being deferred, without a Day fixed, she doubted not an Opportunity for her Persuasives, before the Morrow would be passed.

Having assured Mr. *Isaacson* of her best Endeavours for his Service, as the next Morning, he dressed himself early, and went abroad ; not only that he might afford his Mediatrix the better Opportunity for the display of her Talents ; but that he might avoid the first Onset of his Wife's Fury, in case she should suspect him to have played off his Kinswoman upon her ; for he dreaded the Consequences that might follow.

Mr. *Isaacson* having, contrary to Custom, stayed out for some Hours, and not returning at almost Dinner-time, his Lady began to open to Mrs. *Roberts*, in a complaining Way, by her wondering what could be become of him. She was very sure, she said, that he, a Stranger, as she might say, in the Town, could have no necessary Engagements upon his

Hands, to detain him so, for a whole Morning.

This gave Mrs. *Roberts* occasion to tell her, that surely no Gentleman was accountable to his Wife, for the bestowing of his vacant Hours, so that he avoided but debauched Company; which, in her Kinsman, a Man of the most exact and virtuous Deportment, was what could by no means be suspected. Men, Mrs. *Isaacson* replied, were all Hypocrites, and Deceivers; nor could any Woman answer for the Company they kept, when once out of her own sight.

This put Mrs. *Roberts* upon telling her plainly, that the Entertainment she had observed her to give him at Home, could by no means conduce to the rendering it agreeable to him; and that, for her part, both she and her Husband had often been surprized at his taking it so passively; for that Mr. *Roberts* had often vowed, that as well as he loved her, he would soon make the House too hot to hold her, had she given him but a tythe of the Occasion, that he had observed Mrs. *Isaacson* to have given her Husband.

Mrs. *Roberts*, having ended, waited for some extravagant Speech from her Friend,
by

by way of Reply; but Mrs. *Isaacson*, having then an After-Game in her Head, which she had thoughts of playing with her Husband, whom she made no Scruple to suspect of having tutored Mrs. *Roberts* into her present Lecture, replied, Do you say so in earnest, my Dear? Do I really treat my dear Husband amiss? —well truly! If that is the Case, I shall be more circumspect than to offend for the Future. —I have every Reason in the world to praise his Behaviour to me, save only, that I think him a little too close-fisted, and not willing that we should make the Figure in Life, that our Fortune demands.

Mrs. *Roberts* declared, that she had never before heard her Cousin charged with any Penuriousness that way; nay, that she would be responsible for the Contrary, provided Mrs. *Isaacson* would make it her Study to behave but with common Complaisance to him: For that he had rather been taxable with the contrary Extream, during all his late Wife's Time, who was certainly one of the sweetest tempered and most compliant Creatures in the Universe: Nay, added she, he never could think any Expence, which

he might but barely presume grateful to her, too lavish for giving her Satisfaction.

Mrs. *Isaacson* thanked her Friend extremely for these Hints, which she was in no doubt, she said, but she should at length make redound to her own Advantage: So that all now was over, and the Ladies removed to their separate Apartments, before Mr. *Isaacson's* Return; who, poor Man, even knocked at his own Door, as a Beggar would for an Alms, under trembling for the Approach of a Servant to open it to him, lest a Peal of Thunder should have waited him, from that voluble Tongue, that had already so often sounded to his Confusion.

He asked the Servant where his Lady was? Who replied, she had just before left her in her Dressing-room, preparing for Dinner; and believed her Lady intended visiting in the Afternoon, for that she was dressing more elegantly than ordinary. He had but seldom hitherto accosted her in that Attitude, unless when peculiarly in good Humour; however, he was determined now to do it, that he might be sensible as soon as possible, whether Mrs. *Roberts* had kept Promise with him, and in some measure
guess

guess what an Effect it had had : For, as his Situation could scarce prove worse than it was, he was peculiarly anxious for the Knowledge of what he should have to trust to.

He therefore bolted in abruptly, with, So my Dear, are you dressing for Dinner ? She arose from her Toilet, and with one of the sweetest Countenances that he could recollect ever to have seen her put on, Pray how do you like me in this Dress to day, my Love ? said she. He assured her extreamly well ; nor did he remember ever to have seen it before, he said, but it was so becoming, that she even charmed him in it, and was seemingly an intire new Creature.

Clasping him then round the Neck, and kissing him, she replied, that though it had ever been her Favourite, yet she should thenceforth esteem it incomparably beyond what she had ever done, as meeting also with his Approbation. He was then turning from her, that he might not impede her Dressing, as he told her ; saying, he would wait her in the Parlour ; but so far was she from consenting to part with him, that intreating him to take his Seat by her, she should probably

require his Opinion of other Parts of her Dress presently, she said, and then, she should ever after judge, how best to please his Taste.

The good Man was in such Raptures at this pleasing Change in his Lady's Behaviour, that he knew not well what to make of it; but determined, that nothing should escape him, that might but eventually divert her Courtesy into another Channel. He sat by her throughout her whole Dressing, and at the Conclusion professed he had not enjoyed himself so desirably, since the first Moment of his Wedlock; nor, indeed, had he ever before beheld those Beauties in her Person, which then exhibited themselves too conspicuously, to escape the most transient Notice.

In short, they appeared wholly debonair all Dinner-time, nor would he rest till he had drawn her into a Walk in the Mall with him, and had there but been any Amusement whatsoever in Preparation for the Evening, to this he would have taken the two Ladies: For his Heart was now so open, that he could have denied her Nothing; but she made no inordinate Use of the Power she so apparently

apparently had over him, till the Opportunity should prove more favourable for it.

Many a one would push their Requests to an Extravagance, were it not for a Consciousness of the Imposition, which over-shadows their Countenances with Blushes, declaratory of the Confusion and Shame that the Soul at such time labours with; and this it is, that renders excessive Demands even Scandalous, to the Mouth of him, whose Hand makes no Scruple to subscribe itself to them in writing; but the Lady we are now treating of, though intirely of the same Disposition with those above, made use of as significant a Method of Conveyance for her Desires, and, at the same time, as remote from the Exposure of her Blushes: For beginning her Application, just after some tender Endearments of her Husband, as they were in Bed, and in the Dark together she clung round him, and with a Sigh, my Dear, said she, I fear you were angry with me, for alledging my Im preparation for leaving the Town with you. He replied, that to be sure it would be more pleasing to him to be at home, after an Absence of

more Months, than he had for several Years past spent Days from thence.

Well! she said, if he would not be enraged at her, she would inform him of the true Reason of her Reluctance to that Journey. The fond Husband, feeling her Heart beat, and perceiving her Tongue falter, whilst she crept closer and closer to him, assured her, that whatever she might have to communicate to him, he would receive with the utmost Temper and Calmness ; and, so far from being enraged at her, as she suspected, that if it proved disagreeable to him, he would hope to back his Sentiments with such Reasons, as might sway her to his Opinion ; but added, that no Caprice of his own should prevail for his denying her any reasonable Thing it should be in his Power to comply with.

Madam having brought him to this, first administering such a downy Kiss as melted his very Soul into her Bosom ; my Dear, said she, you now want me to accompany you into the Country, wherein I am as yet a Stranger ; but where you have for some Years dwelt in the highest Reputation, and Affluence. You are very sensible, that neither your
Carriages,

Carriages, or my own, are worthy of our conjoined Fortunes; but what think you will be the Voice of the Country, upon your bringing down a new Bride to them, in an old rusty Coach, that they have been for half an Age accustomed to? Will it not be currently reported to both our Disgrace, that you have picked up some *London* Ale-wife, or a Person of as mean Extract, who must be glad to take up with any thing, and who for the Sake of a Wheeled Conveyance, would be glad of a Cart, or a Waggon? For no body will suspect, if I brought you but barely sufficient for the Purpose, that, upon the Solemnity of this Occasion, we should appear otherwise than in an entire new Equipage.—Be not angry, my Dear, added she; Women have a natural Mixture of Vanity in their Compositions, nor can I by any means plead an Exemption from the common Set of my Sex; though I would gladly reduce it as far as possible to a Subserviency to your Will.

The loving Husband, in Raptures at this new Turn his Affairs seemed to be taking, and glad to hear that his Lady's Demands amounted to no more than a new Coach, embraced her with utmost

Tenderneſs, and aſſured her, how agreeable it would ever be to him, even to out-run the Deſires of ſo gentle and amiable a Wife, as he hoped ſhe would ever prove to him ; and as for the required Coach, it was inſtantly concluded, to beſpeak it the next Morning.

Madam's Taſte was now nicely to be conſulted in this new Vehicle ; nor would any thing leſs than a Landau, of the neweſt Cut and Faſhion, go down, painted after a moſt pompous Manner ; and this, with three Sets of Harneſs, and all other Apparatus compleat, cut no little Depth in to leſs than three hundred Pounds, which was all the ready Caſh the Eſquire had left, after having ſecured every Penny beſides for the Purchaſe of Lands, to the Uſe of his future Family ; but, however, his Rents would be coming in again ſoon, and upon theſe he reſolved to live very Sparingly.

Whiſt this Implement was building, Madam demeaning herſelf ſo Dutifully and Loveingly to her Husband, as even to charm him in return for ſuch an Exceſs of Affection, he could do no leſs, as he thought, than put the Queſtion to her, whether there would be any thing
eſſe

else wanting to carry down with them? And if so, desired her to speak, that no Time might be lost in providing it.

The Lady, who had long had it in her Head, but had never before parted with it, for lack of a convenient Opportunity, hanging upon his Neck, with a most languishing Leer told him, that indeed he was too good to her; but since himself had put the Question, she could not but say, that it had often entered into her Mind, what a Figure they two would make, before the Encrease of their Family, in so vast a Conveniency as their Landau would be, when ever they should either go to Church, or upon a Visit, alone; not but that she held it absolutely Proper to have such a Carriage, as they might upon Occasion accommodate a Friend in; but a Chariot, of the Berlin make, she owned, would be most suitably adapted to them; besides, that the Airy-ness of the Machine, and the Lightness, would minister infinite Delights to her, what she should be a meer Stranger to in the Landau, especially in bad Weather; nor could she omit one other Benefit; for that in case of both, though they should

should be engaged upon divers Occasions, and to different Places, the Outset of one of them could be no Incommodity to the other, as each would have a separate Vehicle, for their several Uses.

She asked him what he thought of what she had said, and whether it did not seem highly agreeable to his Sentiments as well as to hers? Begging him to be perfectly unreserved, and to give her a Check, if he disapproved her Suggestions.

After this Act of Condescension in his dearest Bride, there was but little Need of her fearing a disavourable Reply; nor, indeed, had he the least Objection, save the Delay it would give to their Journey; but this she obviated, by assuring him it was her Intent, that, when ready, it should be sent down after them.

This, however, was a Point gained upon the Husband's Part, and the Berlin Chariot was forthwith to be built, upon a Model of the Lady's own choosing; nor could a more Elegant one be formed by the Art of Man, than she directed this to be.

Two or three other Servants seemed soon necessary, to aggrandise all this new Equipage. The Liveries, not only for the fresh Servants in Town, were to be all new and laced in an extravagant Manner; but Cloth and Lace of the same Patterns were to be sent into the Country, for new rigging several there in the same Cut; till at length Expences ran so high, and daily increased so, that without more-ado he had devoted the whole ready Money I have mentioned to his Lady's peculiar Service, and gave himself but little Concern how she disposed of it; but the above Things were scarcely compleated, with several other not taken into my Account, before, discoursing one Day with him about the Quantity and Quality of the China his late Lady had by her, and hearing that to consist solely of Things useful, Madam declared such a Passion for those dear delightful Jarrs, Images, and numberless Trumpery, that arrived only from that charming Country the *Indies*, that the Esquire was hooked in to consent to her pleasing herself at an *India House* in *Leaden-ball-street*, so far as she pleased to go.

This

This Article intirely employed his whole Stock, and left almost every other Particular that had been bespoken unpaid for: So that the good Man was obliged to write into the Country for a Recruit, before he could any ways decamp, with Honour; but having no Steward there, or other Person peculiarly retained for and accustomed to the Receipt of his Rents, there was but one Tenant, who shewed himself so forward, for Payment, as to agree to account with one of his Servants, upon his Master's particular Order for him so to do; the rest all shuffling off their Rent, till their Landlord himself returned.

An Order was therefore sent to him, who thereupon paid his preceding *Lady-day's* Rent; but it proved no more than a Breakfast to the Load of Demands that still lay behind; whereupon, threatening Letters were sent to most of the considerable Tenants, for Payment of their Rents forthwith, or that Mr. *Isaacson* would take particular Care to be up with them at his Return, and by this Method he collected about four hundred Pounds more, and received some Promises of
Returns

Returns in a very short time ; but the Landau not being quite ready, and the Berlin by this time being almost as forward ; in hopes of more Returns speedily from the Country, Madam converted the four hundred Pounds to other Uses, before the Delivery of the Coach-makers Demand: For having discovered, that her Husband's chief Stock of Plate consisted only of Spoons, Salts, Mugs, a Tankard, and some few common Household Utensils, she could give no Peace to her Mind, till she had a compleat Service, she said, not only for immediate Use, but for the Ornament of the Side-board ; for that, in her Opinion, a Side-board, amply furnished with that Ware, exceeded the most elegant edible Entertainment, that could be placed upon a Table ; not only to themselves, as Proprietors, but even in the Eye of every polite Guest too ; but that she might not appear Extravagant, she said, that as she had Quantities of her late Husband's Plate by her, which from the Antiquity of its Fashion, was become Useless to her, she would sell all that, and with the Purchase-Money, and a little Addition from her Husband's

Husband's Cash, would procure a very handsome Service.

Mr. *Isaacson*, who still imagined every Demand to be the last, consequently concluded, that his Lady's Ingenuity, though put ever so far upon the Stretch, could never conceive any further Demand upon him, complied also with this, upon the Prospect that as her own Plate was to be applied to the Purchase of New, the Difference could not amount to many Pounds, upon any Pretence whatsoever; but blind Calculations, are but seldom just ones: For the Lady had so many peculiar Applications for almost every new-fangled Gimcrack that was produced to her, that she not only paid away the Produce of her own Plate, but contracted to the Value of upwards of three hundred Pounds more than her Husband was able to pay down, for her new Acquisitions.

This would have irritated even an Archbishop, who as the Pinnacle of Christian Virtues, we may suppose to be best furnished with them; and would have stirred up the Choler of our Esquire against his Lady too, had not she in the
Height

Height of her Suspicions of what would be instantly discharged at her, in an Extasie, hugging and smacking him, cried out ; O! my dear Love, how beautifully appear these rich Ornaments in my Eye?—You have hereby testified your Love, indeed, for me, and have made me the happiest Woman this day in *England*.

This Artifice of the Lady, silenced all her Husband's Batteries at once, and the better to keep her in Good-humour, he even submitted to an Acknowledgment, that her Taste for such Things was most Exquisite.

C H A P. VI.

Miss Olympia and Mrs. Roberts correspond by Letter. Mr. Isaacson wants to borrow Money. His Wife lends it out of her reserved Cash. She lavishes it away. More Money taken up. Ten new Horses bought. Set out with a grand Retinue. Break down by the Way. Get Home at last.

MISS *Olympia* would have been half distracted at this Delay of her Father, and Cousins, had not Mrs. *Roberts*

Roberts taken upon her to correspond with her; so that Letters passing, and repassing between them, almost Weekly, Miss was constantly informed of the State of their Affairs in Town; for her Father, for the Sake of all his future Prospects with his Lady, durst not have held the least Epistolary Commerce with her.

Mr. *Isaacson's* Returns by no means answering the Demands his Lady had for them in Town, whose every new Purchase (though he was assured it was to be the last) but further involved him in Debt; he at length grew so uneasy at it, that rather than suffer the Disgrace of Tradesmen daily at his Door, whilst under a Disability for their Satisfaction, he vowed he would borrow, upon his Bond, a Sufficiency to discharge all his Incumbrances, and return it out of their first Year's Income, which he made no Dispute of performing, with a considerable Over-plus; but having experimented one or two of his former Acquaintance whose Abilities he questioned not, and whose Friendship he fully relied on, unsuccessfully, he became so dejected, as not to be capable of hiding it from the inquisitive Eye of his Lady, who,

who, as she was seldom at a loss for Means to extricate herself from Difficulties, soon provided the like for his Satisfaction too, by proposing to advance him a thousand Pounds or two, from her own reserved Cash, which she doubted not but, at her Request, her Trustee would immediately consent to.

The Disease of her Husband's Mind, gauling him even beyond Toleration, he readily snapt at this Remedy; and no sooner had the Trustee accorded to Madam's Desires, than she told her Husband, that since she had found out so ready a Supply, she would refer it to his Judgment, indeed, but, in her Opinion, it would be the best Way, now they were about it, entirely to furnish themselves with every Thing that they might possibly want in the Country; and as she had, whilst she tarried at his Seat, observed the Furniture of his House, as to the Bedding, to consist of no one Thing better than Mohair; and that his wooden Utensils were chiefly of Oak, or at best Walnut-tree, which he must admit to be both unpolite and unfashionable, they had better, at once, supply themselves with these in Mahogany; nor could they

they possibly receive a Friend for a few Nights, without a Damask bed or two, at least, to lay them in, which Trifle she could not expect him to deny her, seeing how readily she even devoted the little Reservation she had made for her own private Purposes to his Service.

What was to be done in this Case? Some of her Money he resolved to accept of for extricating himself from his present Embarrassments, and should he deny her further Gratifications, when she had offered him a Supply for their Procurement, he was but too sensible, that all the Expence he had already squandered away (as he esteemed it) would be regarded as nothing by her: So that hoping to find an End of his Disbursements some time or other, he gave into her way of Thinking, and took up, upon his single Bond to her Trustee, the Sum of Two thousand Pounds; when having paid away almost half of the Sum upon Pre-engagements, he put the Remainder into his Lady's Hands, as the most ample Fund, in his Imagination, for her Purposes; assuring her at the same time, that, under a proper Economy, she must have a considerable

siderable Remainder after the Completion of her whole Views.

The Lady, who upon every the like Occasion, had an Equivalent ever at hand for his Favours, could not now, as she pretended, restrain herself from testifying her Gratitude, by such Plenty of Dears and Salutes, Love and Affection, as in three Minutes Time, left him still her Debtor; nor was he so churlish a Husband, as rather to remain upon her Books, than to clear Scores with her; for full ten Days had not passed, before, vacating his first Bond, he gave her Trustee another for Three thousand Pounds, a third being absolutely necessary for the Discharge of her Novel-engagements; but such a Houseful of Whim-whams in Mahogany were scarce ever collected together before, and these of such exquisite Workmanship, as if solely designed for a Reduction to Shivers and Fragments, in their Conveyance to *Gloucestershire*, without an Expence in their Carriage almost equal to their first Purchase; but as this was now become absolutely necessary, if she ever intended to shew out with them, the whole House was turned into a Workshop for many Days

Days, with sawing, and hammering, to make separate Cases for all this Inundation of Play-things; for that no two of them must, by any Means, touch each other, or must they be subjected to the least Weight, lest they should be crumbled to Atoms by the Way: So that what with Mats, Papers, Cards, Cases, &c. &c. it is incredible, what Bills were paid on that account before one of them was set forth in their Mansion.

Madam having now run almost to the Length of her Chain, the Bills being all paid, and their Journey agreed upon, with scarce Stock enough in hand for their Travelling Charges, a new Crochet took her in the Head, that some of her Horses were blind, and that they were all full aged, and consequently no ways suitable to the new Curricles they were to be conjoined to. She had four of them, and her Husband the like Number, but a compleat Set was what she affected, nor could she travel without them.

She had ordered one of her Servants to bring her a true State of the Condition he should find her Husband's Horses in, whose Report advancing them but little superior to her own, she was resolute

lute for a Change, let what would be the Consequence. She accordingly attacked the 'Squire with her Wishes, that she could but once get out of Town with him, lest the Summer should be quite spent first; but how they should possibly do it, was the Difficulty she had some Time laboured with, having never yet been able to digest it.

Mr. *Isaacson* was surpris'd at her Discourse; but replied, Have we not now two Coaches, a Landau, and a new Chariot, my Dear, with eight Draft-Horses in the Stable? and do you make a Doubt, how with these we shall get to *Gloucestershire*? I know, replied she, that with these we may tow down in time, like Vessels against the Stream, a Pair of Horses to each Carriage, in Procession, by Way of Funeral; but what suits the Sprightliness of my Genius, and I should hope, by course, of your own too, would be to whirl away upon the Nail so lightly as scarce to leave a Trace behind us; as if Horses were made for Men, and not Men for Horses, as I always judge those to be, who had rather fatigue themselves than their Cattle.

Now

Now pray, my Dear, added she, how is this to be done with our half-blind and crippled Beasts, who, longing rather for Rest than Travel, are for running their Heads into every Stable-door we come at? besides, surely! no People in their Wits would be drawn in either of our new Equipages with less than a Set of Horses, and then we shall have just one Pair left for the Draught of three Carriages.

Mr. *Isaacson* could not but think it would be highly prudent to dispose of their old Carriages in Town, for the most that they could get for them, and then they should have four Horses for each of their new Vehicles, he told her, and might, as they were disposed, sometimes make use of one, sometimes of another, well imagining that he had offered such a Clencher as could no ways be controverted.

His Lady then asked him, if they ever had any Rain in *Gloucestershire*! Rain! my Dear, said he, yes sure, or the Country would soon be depopulated. And would you, said she, have me at such Times to make a Visit in one of our new Machines?—You see now, added

added she, that though it may be need-
ful to appear occasionally in our best,
yet our worst Equipages will have their
Utility too.

The 'Squire being thus foiled at every
Weapon, demanded what it was she
would have? for that he could perceive
he had missed the Mark in all that he
had attempted. To which Mrs. *Isaacson*
replied, that the scantiest Share of Re-
flection, would have satisfied him of the
Necessity there would be for a new Set
of Horses; such as neither of them
might either take Shame at being drawn
by, or refuse to venture their Necks
with in a dusky Evening, or a danger-
ous Way: For that upon the exactest
Scrutiny she had been able to make,
the whole eight Horses, which at pre-
sent their Stock consisted of, had not
more than six good Eyes amongst them;
that one of hers had a blunt Spavin, and
two of his were so tender-footed, as to
disdain all Ground less tender than a
Carpet. Now these, added she, though
they may be useful in the farming Way
you delight in, are by no Means adapted
to the Use of a Lady of Figure in Life:
For, surely! a Woman with the Bulk

74 *The MOTHER-IN-LAW ; or,*
of my Fortune, may demand a Set of
Horses, or it will be very hard. I have
now, added she, explained myself so un-
reservedly to you, that I would persuade
myself the Necessity of what I say is too
apparent to receive a Contradiction from
you.

Mr. *Isaacson* longing to be freed from
the Town, where her Demands rather
multiplied, than decreased, would very
gladly have granted her Request, he
said, had he but wherewithal left to sup-
port the Charge of it ; but as his Stock
was so vastly diminished by the Drafts
that had already been made upon him,
he assured her, he must defer it till the
next Winter, unless he should, in the
mean time, meet with what would suit
his Purpose nearer at home, and at a
Time too, when he should be better
prepared for it.

My Dear, said she, my Inclination has
ever been for doing what is necessary to
be done, at the Time it may be done ;
we are now in the grandest Market for
Horse-flesh, perhaps, in *Europe* ; where
we may not only buy the best of Cattle,
but the best seasoned also ; Creatures
initiated to their Business, and not raw,
and

and unexperienced Colts, with whom the keen Edge of all Pleasure is abated, by the Dread of some Mischief to arise from the Unsteadiness of their Conduct. As for Cash, you are sensible that my Affection can refuse you no Part of my own Ten thousand Pounds, which, should Occasion offer, should be every Penny at your Service.

Well ! here was not only Horses now wanted, but a Fund proposed for the Purchase of all that would be needful ; and Mr. *Isaacson* having, in Manner before-mentioned, saddled himself with another thousand Pounds, ten exceeding fine Horses were bought from a Jockey near *Moorfields*, the lowest-priced one of which, cost upwards of Forty Guineas : For whatever Cattle these Gentlemen dispose of, are seldom known to want for Price. No sooner was this her ultimate Desire complied with, than she declared herself ready for the Country, longing then for nothing in Nature more than to be seen in her new Equipage : So that the very third Day after the Purchase of her Cattle, having previously loaded several Waggons with her Furniture, they set out with six of the new

Cattle in their new Landau, four more of them in the Berlin, and four of the old ones in each of the old Conveyances, with six Servants on Horseback with Holsters, Pistols, and Housings; but that every Carriage might bear its equal Proportion in the Journey, the 'Squire and his Lady led up the Van, with the Horsemen before and beside them, in the new Landau; Mr. *Roberts* and his Lady in the Berlin immediately followed them, and the two old Instruments were each of them charged with two Maid-Servants: So that wherever they passed, nothing less than some first-rate Nobleman could be suspected of travelling with so august a Retinue.

Madam was never in her Life more delighted, than with this superb Equipage for all the first Day; but the next Morning, about four Miles beyond *Highbickham*, one of the Irons snapping, to which the Landau was braced before, down came the Fabrick upon its Head, whilst the Horses were upon a first-rate Trot: So that the 'Squire and his Lady were both drawn on a considerable Way, till the Out cry of the latter within, had given Notice to the Coachman, that it
would

would be requisite to halt a little ; but as the Body of the Machine then hung so unluckily, that the Company could not creep out at the under Door, they were forced to climb out at the upper, and be handed down by the Servants.

The Confusion was become so general amongst the whole Corps, for they were all drawn up as near to the Disaster as possible, and had all quitted their Retreats, to minister by their Assistance to the distressed Members ; that when they could have separated again, it became impracticable, till they had severally resumed their proper Stations ; for had a Wheel but moved, they must, some of them, have been crushed under it, for want of Room to avoid it.

Madam, having the Proverb of her Side, escaped with only a Bruise or two upon her Legs, and one Shoulder ; but her Husband, poor Man, looked more like a Spectre than a living Person, when he appeared ; for his Head was most confoundedly broken against the Iron Ketch in the Ceiling of the Landau, besides several severe Bruises, which lay concealed, under the weightier Calamity to his Noddle ; but those failed not to

remind him of them soon after the Dressing of his Skull, by an almost Inability to walk for a few Days after. These, his Lady esteemed as the most felicitous Part of the Accident, since they restrained him from that Impatience he would otherwise have expressed for being moving before the Landau could be repaired.

It was not only the Iron I have before mentioned, that had suffered by this Downfal, but several other Parts of the Landau had been mauled, scratched, fretted, and miserably defaced by it, which all demanded new furbishing : So that they were not ready for their Departure from the Village they had put in at, till the fourth Morning after ; but most happily they proceeded for the Remainder of their Journey, without the least farther Interruption, and at length, reaching the 'Squire's Parish, were ushered home under the Clangour of the Bells, and incessant Shouts of their Tenants and poor Neighbours, who had never beheld such a magnificent Cavalcade in their Lives before.

C H A P. VII.

Her Extravagance in the Country. Bears a Son. Breaks her Husband's Heart. Refuses to see her before his Death. His Will read to his Lady. Her Remarks. Miss demands her Father's personal Estate. Hears he died insolvent. Melancholy Scene between Miss and Mr. Faulconer her Lover.

MRS. *Isaacson*, immediately upon her Arrival, declaring herself breeding, Mrs. *Roberts* stayed with her about a Week, at her Request, as an Assistant to her Fancy in the Disposition of all her new Furniture; and then taking Leave, she and Mr. *Roberts* proceeded to *Worcestershire*, privately charged with Mr. *Isaacson*'s hearty Commendations and Love to his Daughter, whom he intreated to make herself easy without the Sight of him, and to rest assured, that her Cousin *Roberts* had his Orders to supply her with whatever she should have Occasion for, not doubting, but, in a little Time, he should so work upon her Mother's Disposition, that a free

Intercourse would be opened between them, and herself be as welcome at his House as ever; but begged her to content herself without writing to him, for Reasons that her Cousin *Roberts* would apprise her of.

These were heart-breaking Lines to Miss *Olympia*; but yet, her Prudence rendered them more tolerable to her, than they would have been to many other Persons. Her Father had little less at Heart than his saving Scheme; first for Re-payment of his Bond, and then that he might amass all that was possible for his Daughter. To those Ends he deprived himself of many Satisfaction that he could have been pleased to have qualified himself with; but, however reserved he was in his Expences, he soon found that there was another Head to be consulted, before he should be able to reduce them to his Inclination: For though he had imagined his Lady's Profusion had been pretty well gorged already, even till she could have found no Room for more; yet, the numberless daily Demands she made upon him for Articles, in his Opinion, absolutely useless, discharged his Mind at length
of

of every Hope that there would be any End of them, or even the least Intermission : For as one Act of Sin, though ever so cautiously committed, fails not of drawing on a Train of successive Impieties ; so the Extravagance his Lady had been guilty of in Town, would have answered little purpose in the Country, without such an additional Charge there, in the fixing, and exhibiting them in Character, in her Husband's old Dwelling, as even exceeded the original Cost of them.

Many Rooms that were hung with rich Tapestry, and other Woollen Manufactures, must now be new wainscotted, and painted ; Floors new laid ; Windows altered ; Ceilings raised ; and such a Scheme had she projected in her Head, as had her Husband's Income been double and treble what it was, must in few Years prosecution of it, have reduced him to Bankruptcy.

He complied however, in some few Things which she held absolutely necessary, for the sake of his own Peace ; and with fair Words, and half Promises, seemed not altogether averse from the rest ; but put them off to a more suitable

Opportunity, though he had already consented to so much, as would deprive him even of paying off the Interest of his Bond for that Year, much less could he collect any Thing for his Daughter.

In short, Madam proceeding with her great Belly, was so often in a longing Condition, and that, for such unattainable Commodities, as had she abated him most of her other Demands, would have ruined a moderate Fortune in the Procurement ; but have them she must, he was told, or his Wife and the Child were in Danger.

These unaccustomed Methods of fleecing him, together with the little Prospect he had of ever seeing it otherwise, and several unanswered Demands, which stood out against him in the Country before the Year was up, threw Mr. *Isaacson* into such a desponding Way, as having preyed for some few Months upon him almost insufferably, at about the End of sixteen Months after his Nuptials, laid him in his Grave, soon after he had seen himself the Father of as fine a Boy, as perhaps was ever beheld at his Age ; but as for some Months before he died, he had taken but little Notice of any Thing, so
his

his Son was in the Number of the Subjects he paid but a trifling Regard to.

He was fully sensible of his approaching Departure for some Time before he died, and retained it till his latest Moments ; but that he might not interrupt weightier Matters, he would not suffer his Wife to approach him for several Days, lest he should grow intemperate in his Reproaches of her, as the sole Cause of his so untimely Fall ; but on the Afternoon before he died, he locked himself into his Closet, where he sat down, and made the following Will.

‘ I *Robert Isaacson*, though the dullest
‘ of Ideots myself, descended from prudent
‘ Parents, whose Manners had I
‘ retained, instead of a dying Fool, I
‘ might for half an Age yet to come,
‘ have promised myself the Enjoyment
‘ of a living Man ; but the Case at present
‘ proving otherwise ; as a Man in
‘ my Circumstances ought to leave his
‘ Will upon Earth, though he cannot
‘ perform it himself ; so by this Writing,
‘ which I intend for such, I desire, when
‘ dead, to be stuck upon a Pole, on the
‘ most conspicuous Eminence in the
‘ County of *Gloucester*, as a Memento to
‘ my Countrymen, against the Indolence
‘ of

‘ of indulging a Wife in her Folly, rather
‘ than be at the necessary Trouble of
‘ reducing her to a prudent Œconomist.

‘ Also, as to the good Woman I shall
‘ leave behind me, should ever any
‘ Man hereafter have a Value for her
‘ as for a Wife, I hope it will be the
‘ greatest Enemy I ever had; whose
‘ Friend, I will still be so much, out of
‘ Christian Charity, as to advise him
‘ rather to give her half his Estate, without his Person, than the Whole, with it; lest he should soon be able to say, as I now may, that he has Nothing left to dispose of.

‘ My Household Goods, and all that I
‘ may call my own in the World, if any
‘ thing still exists under that Name, I
‘ give to my dearest, and most valuable
‘ Daughter *Olympia*, whose Curses upon
‘ me for my Stupidity, I most earnestly
‘ deprecate.

‘ As to my Wife’s Conscience, I bequeath it the whole Void between
‘ Heaven and Earth, if capacious enough
‘ to contain it; if not, I remit it to the
‘ Hell it was originated in, where there
‘ will be no scuffling for Room.

‘ My

‘ My Wife, as my Executioner, may
‘ also be my Executor, if she pleases ;
‘ if not, whoso will, may, that shall first
‘ possess himself of Sufficient to pay for
‘ the Proof of my Will ; and this, which
‘ is the only Will I have had of my own
‘ since I last married, I hereby declare
‘ to be so. Witness my Hand, the 12th
‘ of June, 1723.

Witlefs Bubble,
alias *Robert Isaacson.*”

The Physician who attended him through his whole Illness, and who had long been his intimate Acquaintance, happened to be by in Mr. *Isaacson*’s last Struggles ; when in one of his Intervals, he desired him to look in his Closet for a Paper sealed up upon his Table. He told him it was his Will, of which having no Duplicate, he desired him to be careful ; and after his Death, first to read it over to his Wife, and then to his Daughter, and to leave it with the latter ; but as to the Contents of it, he intended them not for a Secret, as all Mankind had a Chance for being interested in them ; nor had he made this Declaration many Minutes, before he expired.

Mrs.

Mrs. *Isaacson*, upon Notice of her Husband's Death, flew into such an Excess of seeming Rage, as scarce ever to be beheld. She smote her Breast, tore her Hair, wrung her Hands, and expressed the Vehemence of her Lamentations for so good and tender a Husband, by so many Tokens of Sorrow, as the fondest of Wives might have been at a Loss to have displayed; when the Doctor, to moderate her Grief a little, after stating her Husband's Condition as the Lot of the whole Species, desired her to compose herself for a-while, till he had performed the last Words of his deceased Friend, in reading over his Will to her, it being what he had enjoined him, upon committing it to his Care; but the over-fond Lady could no ways bear it, she said, it would be too much for her, to hear the lively Expressions of that dear Man, whom she should never hear speak more.

However, under some Persuasions of the Doctor's, and Incentives to the appeasing of her Passion, she at length consented, and covering her Face, all bathed in Tears, with her Handkerchief, so well as her Sobs and Sighs would permit her, she sat attentively to imbibe
the

the Impressions his Words would make upon her.

She had much ado with herself to give a peaceable Hearing to the first Paragraph; but no sooner had the Doctor uttered it, than, O! the dear Soul! said she, he must certainly have been delirious at the penning of this, as indeed, I took him to be for some Time past; by his refusing to admit me to his Presence. Poor Man! added she, it will be to no Purpose going on with it, Doctor,——Pray give it me, it may serve to indulge my Grief over in private, for the Loss of him.

The Doctor told her, he was sorry he could not comply with her Request, having received the same Injunction from his deceased Friend, for reading it over to his Daughter too; and then, having answered his Friend's Request, he should deliver it to the Person who appeared to have the most Right to it.

Madam, perceiving the Doctor so tenacious, had the more Curiosity for its further Contents; so that if she might not be favoured with the Instrument itself, she desired him to proceed with it.

Madam

Madam issued a most profound Sigh, at hearing the first few Words of the next Paragraph ; but the Doctor had scarce read a Line further, before she cried out, O ! no, never, never, can I make a Wife for any Man, after the Loss of so good a Husband.

The Doctor having at length laboured through the second Paragraph ; O ! mad ! mad ! to be sure he was, said she.—— I presume, Sir, said she, to the Doctor, that you have for some Time been conscious of this, though you was cautious of terrifying me with the Report of it. The Doctor replied, upon his Reputation, that he had never the least Occasion for surmising so ; no, added he, not even at the Point of Death ; for in my Apprehension, his Intellects were then as perfect as ever. Not mad ! Doctor, said the Lady, to write down in so solemn an Act as his Will, such a Heap of Inconsistencies ? Let us see it out, Madam, replied he ; for there can be no judging upon Parcels, of any one intire Piece.

Upon giving her the next Paragraph ; ay, said she, that over Fondness for his Daughter, was the sole Uneasiness I ever
had

had with him ; but the Doctor had scarce traversed the fourth Paragraph, before Madam's Tears were converted into Rage, which issued at length in a white Foam from her Lips, through the Vehemence of her Imprecations upon him. That wicked Scoundrel! said she, to vilify a loving Wife thus. O! that Hell he remits me to, would be a Heaven to me, could I be but sure to find him there, that I might render his Torments tenfold to him.

In short, she behaved so frantically, and made Use of such desperate Expressions, that the Doctor little doubting some Mischief would ensue, from his absolutely refusing her the Will, that she might destroy it, which was what she had several Times petitioned for ; that, snatching up his Hat, he made a sudden Push out of the House, and left her.

His next Stage was to Miss *Olympia*, to whom also he produced and read the Will ; but she, poor Girl, was so distressed for the Loss of her Father, as to be incapable of solacing herself upon the bitter Character of her Mother-in-law. She consulted Mr. *Roberts* and his Lady, however, upon the Event, who promised her

her to stand by her; and though her Father's Discomposure at the ill State of his Affairs, had caused him to aggravate Matters to an Extremity; yet, as he had lately laid out such a vast Sum in Household Goods, all of which he had given her; and as there could be no Dispute, but there were large Sums owing to him for Rent, and probably many other Sums due to him upon Securities, with several other Things of Value, not under Settlement; though she should not turn out so Rich as she might have hoped, and expected, yet, when all that she would be intitled to, should be collected into one Mass, she would find no Reason for concluding herself a despicable Fortune.

With these Hopes they buoyed up the poor Girl as much as possible; till at length, both they, and the Doctor, upon what they had reported, advised Miss by all Means, to prove her Father's Will, since notwithstanding the Oddity of it, the same contained a special Bequest to her, of all that he died worth in the World, which her Cousin *Roberts* insisted must be far from inconsiderable. This they urged so long, till at length they brought her into it, and it was proved

proved by her in the Archdeacon's Court, upon a Suggestion, that her Mother insisted upon its being destroyed.

Miss, whilst she had been at Mr. *Roberts's* so long by herself, had there gotten a Lover, whose Visits had been very constant before Mr. *Roberts's* Return, though more sparing, since he had learnt how ungenerously her Father had done by her; for having no extraordinary Fortune of his own, was fearful of engaging too deeply with her, till he could be certain that her Dependencies would entitle them to a comfortable Subsistence; nay, he was so far from only tracing out his own Ends with her, that they had often talked this over together, and though neither had the least to object to the other, in Point of Character or Affection, yet they had mutually agreed to let Matters rest, till by some Means or other, a Sufficiency should appear on either Side, for rendering their future Views in Life felicitous.

This Gentleman, Mr. *Faulconer*, having heard of Mr. *Isaacson's* Death, happened to call upon Miss, to console her upon the melancholy Occasion, and was advised with, what would be most proper
for

for the young Lady to do, and how she should behave with her Step-mother ; when, he declined giving his Opinion first, but after having heard what could be said of all Sides, he held up both Hands for going directly to Mrs. *Isaacson's*, and demanding whatever she was intitled to under her Father's Will, lest any Embezzlements or Concealments should be made, in the mean time. He was for observing the less Ceremony, he said, for that the Lady was Miss's professed Enemy as but too plainly appeared, by her first turning Miss out of her Father's House, and then preventing all Intercourse between them.

They appointed the next Morning for the Purpose, and engaged Mr. *Roberts*, who had offered them the Use of his Coach, to accompany them. Being arrived, Miss sent in her Compliments by her Cousin *Roberts*, desiring to speak with her Mother herself ; but that being too great a Favour, she returned for Answer, that her Father having died insolvent, she knew no Business Miss could have with her, unless it was by way of begging somewhat ; which, as she was no ways disposed to grant her, if she was the

the prudent Lady she had heard she was, she would forthwith withdraw herself from the disagreeable Sound of a Denial.

Mr. *Faulconer* was so irritated at this abusive Message, that vowing he would come to the Speech of her, if above Ground, he rushed inceremoniously into the Room where she was, and as a Person authorized by Miss, demanded the whole Furniture of the House, for Miss's Use; as also all other her Father's Personal Estate, as bequeathed to her by his Will; but Mrs. *Isaacson*, after signifying how impertinently she thought he had behaved to her, assured him, that every Stick and Thread that her Husband died worth, would be full little enough for reimbursing her a Sum of 5000*l.* that her Trustee had lent him, out of Monies secured for her in his Hands, even for the Purchase of the very Furniture, which he had been so imposed upon, as to claim for Miss's Use, and therefore, she desired him to acquaint Miss, that she pitied her Case; but that as her Father had left a much larger Debt behind him, than all that he died worth would discharge, so she would recommend a good Service

Service to her, as the best Thing she could at present propose, not doubting but her Prudence would incite her to make a Virtue of a Necessity, which she believed was too apparent to be avoided; and for the Reality of what she had offered, she referred him to her Trustee, whose Name and Abode she told him, where he might obtain further Satisfaction, of the Genuineness of the Account she had given him.

This melancholy Circumstance so dispirited Mr. *Faulconer*, that at his Return to Miss, he was not of a sudden capable of declaring himself to her; but bursting out into Tears, he stepped into the Coach where she was still sitting, and rather than expose both himself and Miss to the Contempt of the Widow's Family, he ordered the Coach to drive off to an Inn, at about a Mile distance, leaving Mr. *Roberts* behind them.

Miss seeing her Lover so over-borne, laboured under an Excess of Concern for him; but notwithstanding her repeated Requests for the Occasion of it, she could gain nothing more from him, than that at the Inn she should hear all: For that should he deliver himself of it first, they

they should neither of them be proper Spectacles to be received into any House whatever.

This Speech of the Man she loved, and whole Interest, in what occasioned his Sorrow, must affect herself equally with him, though she could charge his Grief to no particular Cause, yet doubting not the Part, which upon Exposure she must bear in it, so affected her, that she fainted away in the Coach, before they could reach the Inn, and in that Condition, was obliged to be carried in by the Maid-servants, and laid upon a Bed; where, whilst she was undergoing the customary Operations in such Cases, not judging it proper for him to appear in the Room with her, he vented his Grief in a double Capacity, now in private, in a separate Room he was shewn into, whilst the Coach was dispatched for Mr. *Roberts*, with special Orders to the Servants, not to mention a Word of what had happened to the Widow's Servants, or even to their Master himself, till he should have quitted her Family.

C H A P. VIII.

The Force of Resolution. Fine Sentiments of Miss Olympia. Mr. Faulconer's Reply. Argument between them upon the Subject of Marriage.

N O sooner was Miss *Olympia* recovered from her fainting Fit, than she sent for Mr. *Faulconer* to attend her; nor had he more than appeared to her, before she read sufficient in his Countenance to have occasioned a Relapse, to almost any Lady of less Resolution than Miss was, who determined to hear his Story with Fortitude; and as from all the Circumstances she could collect, his Account of Things must be of the most melancholy and perplexing Cast, she had previously invigorated her Spirits most incredibly, for the Receipt of whatever he might have to offer.

She met him half Way of the Room, took him by the Hand, and shewing him to a Chair next her own, I must intreat you, Sir, said she, to discard the Grief which seems to over-cast your Brow, lest it should enervate my Heart,

Heart, already prepared for the severest Strokes of Fortune, from every other Quarter.

You are sensible, Sir, added she, when you reflect at all, that it is impossible for Reason to be calm and active, where the Spirits are disanimated through Concern. It is also as certain, that Events are not in our own Direction, especially where the Subjects are transacted by other Hands; then, as Time and Chance happen, indiscriminately to all Mortals, it is, in my Opinion, one of the strongest Arguments of an unsteady Mind, when it can suffer itself to be discomposed through adverse Occurrences. As to my own Part, added she, I hope I am so far Mistress of my Resolves, as, with an undaunted Heart, to withstand all the Shifts of Fortune; and as I can have but little Good in Expectation, so shall I receive the ill News you are about to lay before me, with a Will as prepared for Suffering, if such is by Heaven designed me, as for the supremest Exaltation in my Circumstances.

This Firmness having established in my own Breast, as to all that concerns myself, added she, I can now only be

moved sympathetically by your Sufferings, which I would wish to be resisted by the manly Composure your Sex ought to excel mine in, to such a Degree, that whatever you have to offer me, we may debate upon as unaffected Passengers only, not personally concerned in the Cargo : For it will be from this Manner of Behaviour alone, that we may expect impartial Deliberations, and solid Determinations, for the Government of our future Proceedings.

Mr. *Faulconer* was so astonished at the easy Manner in which Miss *Olympia* delivered herself upon so calamitous a Subject, that, not to be outshone by her in the Subduction of her natural Passions, he assumed a more placid Air than his own unbiaſſed Judgment had directed him to, whilst he related to her the Result of his Conference with the Widow her Mother-in law.

Miss heard his whole Story out with an unmatchable Serenity ; and then, in a most composed Manner, replied ; This, then, you say, is the Will of Providence, that I should be exercised in, and I submit. My confined Prospects, it is true, have carried my Intellects a quite different

rent Way ; but the General I am under, and whose Pleasure I am engaged to perform, has otherwise seen fit to dispose of me: Then who am I, that I should dispute his Orders? Servitude would never have been assigned me for my Portion by him, had he not pre-determined to invigorate my Muscles to perform it. Our Lives are his, and our Time at his Command ; then whether it proves his Pleasure that I spend it in a Coach, or a Kitchen, if I apply but all my Faculties to the Duty enjoined, my Service will be equally acceptable.

Alas, Sir! added she, how many of our Species have lost both the Sight and Trace of the Supreme Being, amongst the Multitude of Enjoyments that the shining Part of the Grandeur of this Life has afforded them, who are now, poor Souls! grovelling in the acutest Sensations of Anguish and Torments, merely from the Pursuit of the temporary Delights of a thoughtless and mispent Series of Years, wasted here without the least Preparation for Eternity? Whereas, not a Tythe of the lower Class of Life, to whose hard Lot (as it is called) the Drudgery of the World hath

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fallen, have scarce passed a Day, nay, many of the heaviest loaden, scarce an Hour, wherein their Difficulties have not elevated their Hearts to the sole overruling Power; if not, in a more supplicatory, yet in an ejaculatory Way, for Pity upon, and Redress of their Labours. If these, then, with a bare Lord have Mercy upon us, shall depart better heard, and consequently more speedful, than the formal Hypocrite with his elaborate Oration: How much more eminently blessed shall they be, than those who are so wholly remiss in even the Shew of Duty, that their Avocations will admit of not the least Time for it at all, till by Disuse, they even forget every Incumbency upon them for the Service.

Now, Sir, added Miss, I shall only intreat your Attention for very few Words more, and with these I shall finish the Trouble I have given you. Would not any reasonable Person, who was certain of the Enjoyment of a vast Estate, together with a Title upon the Death of the present Possessor (though in ever so abject Circumstances in the mean time) endeavour, by every Means in his Power, to qualify himself before the Event should
happen

happen, with the Requisites for making a Figure under his expected Title, and longed for Acquisitions? Surely he would! or it is certain that he must be despised in the Eye of every judicious Spectator; be disqualified for the Society of his Equals, and contemptuously abandoned to those of an inferior Class.

This, Sir, subjoined she, is the real Condition of every Individual produced upon this Earth. We are promised, by Him who cannot falsify, an Immensity of Enjoyments, upon properly fitting ourselves with suitable Endowments for their Reception; then who but an Ideot, would hold off from that Station to which they are most usually adapted? Nay, who would not acknowledge an infinite Obligation to that benign Parent, who seeing him travelling in the smoothest Paths of Disappointment, should rigidly divert his Course, though into a more difficult Road, where, after a few toilsome Steps, he cannot fail of the End of his Journey?

This, Sir, continued she, I take to be my Case; for that all this has happened to me without the Concurrence and Appointment of my Spiritual Father,

ther, I have no more Notion, than of the World's being made by Chance ; and being so pre-ordained by him, shall I not embrace it most cordially, and improve my Lot to the Extent of the Talents he hath intrusted me with ? Yes, it is my full Purpose so to do ; nor will I doubt the Rewards of my Labour from Him, who is not only most ready, but most desirous of our Deservings, as the proper Subjects for the Display of his Mercies.

It is not without the most sensible Pain and Confusion, my Dear, replied Mr. *Faulconer*, that I am compelled, not only to give into the Justness of your Argument, but at the same time to condemn it. Various Circumstances, added he, diversify the most established Maxims ; and though what you have urged may be, and I must admit is, in the general, true ; yet, does my Love behold an absolute Impracticability of our ever uniting, not only with a dry Eye, but as indispensable, without the least sensible Emotion, as subscribing to that cruel Sentence with Composure ?

Never let it from henceforth be said, that Ladies have the strongest Passions,
since

since you can so placidly submit to that Necessity, as a requisite Duty, which even distorts my very Soul in the Reflection; when, that the Concern is equally yours, and the Disappointment similarly afflictive to you, I would not but conclude for the whole Universe.

Is it then, my Love, the Dimness of my own Opticks? Or is it that you appear to me through a false Medium? Or have you the Art of glossing over an aking Heart with a pleasing Countenance? Or what is it, O! my dearest Love, declare to me, that from a Scene alike affecting each of us, you should draw Consolation, whilst I am thus surrounded by Horror only and Despair?

You must not conceive, my Dearest, added he, that because you have urged some Points to me, wholly, indeed, incontrovertible, that I must, therefore, implicitly accord to them; for as Human Nature will not cease to act, notwithstanding our most minute Knowledge of our Duties opposing it in many Instances, so, in spite of that very Duty, our Natures will struggle for the Mastery; nor happens it unfrequently, that it gains the better of every Opponent; as in the Instance be-

fore us, Miss, said he, I must own it does with me ; for as there is not that Thing in all Human Nature that I would not forego for you, so neither in Intellectuals that I can submit to, under a total Privation of you, after the Solemnity of your Engagement, one Day, to make me happy with you.

You seem, Sir, said Miss, to have studied a Pause, without advancing to the Conclusion of the Concession ; for had you gone but a single Step further, your Report had not only been more genuine, but had carried another Face with it. It is true, if my inconsiderable Person would do it, I engaged one Day to make you happy, all Circumstances concurring : Now these, Sir, you know, were upon Condition, that either you or I, ever attained to such Fortune in Life as might reasonably support and maintain us in a competent Affluence together, and not otherwise ; for that we both confessed, it were more eligible for us to live in Separation, than to be linked in a wretched and calamitous Union.

I absolutely deny the Existence of either Wretchedness or Calamity, in what
Con-

Condition of Life soever, replied Mr. *Faulconer*, between two Souls so undivided as I have ever hoped, and conceived ours to be: For if there is a State on Earth I would, by Election, subsist in, with all that Nature can bestow of intrinsic Value in my Possession, you only, my Love, added he, are this inestimable Requisite, who out-weigh all Things in my Estimation; then is it feasible, that I should be unhappy with you alone? No, nor can I ever be otherwise possessing all Things exclusive of you. O! then, let us both agree to fix our Felicity upon that single Bliss that can never decay, rather than upon those transient temporary Trifles that perish even in the Fruition.

We have heretofore, replied Miss, when in Hopes of Affluence, raised horrid Spectres in our Minds of palid Indigence, servile Contempt, and enervating Toil; we have shuddered at the Dread of Children crying in our Ears half naked, cold and languishing; whilst we, unable to supply their Wants, could but commix our Tears with theirs, and passionately condemn our rash Espousals,

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the Introduction of such Wretchedness,
to our miserable Offspring.

Miss assured him, that far from inclining to vary in the least from the Propositions they set out with, she would inviolably retain her Affection for him to what Part soever of the Globe she should be separated from him; as also that she would glory in the Maintenance of a perpetual Correspondence with him; but that the Consequences of Wedlock between them, before a Competency for their future Support should be somehow indubitable, appeared in such dreadful Forms to her, as must for ever deter her from coming into it. Whilst they should remain single, she said, her Necessities would both urge her to leave him for her Subsistence, and him to consent to it for her Benefit; but should they once become Man and Wife, their dis-uniting would be intollerable to them both: So that, upon all Accounts, as she could never consent to any thing so detrimental to them both, she intreated him not only never more to mention it to her, but even to discharge his own Thoughts of it.

By

By this time Mr. *Roberts* being arrived, he reported to them all that had passed between him and the Widow, who, as an old Acquaintance, he thought he might take greater Liberties with than they could; so that he assured them, he had advised her, even for her own sake, as so immense a Gainer by her Husband, to do something handsome from her own Generosity for his only Child, especially as she had drawn him into the Debt to her meerly in Gratification of her own Extravagance; but he told them, his Words were but lost in the Air, without making the least Impression upon the obdurate Heart of that engrossing Lady.

Mr. *Faulconer* would have related to Mr. *Roberts* what had passed between himself and her; but Mr. *Roberts* replied, that it would be needless, the Widow herself having repeated every Passage of it to him: So that having commiserated both their Conditions, as he had nothing comfortable to add, he diverted the Discourse to another Subject; then having supped and lain at the Inn that Night, they set forwards upon their Return the next Morning.

C H A P.

C H A P. IX.

Miss Olympia in sad Circumstances. Mr. Roberts's generous Offer. She avoids it. Descant on Servitude. Not what it is taken for. Miss hears of a Place. Impatient for it. Mrs. Roberts takes her to see it Behaviour there. Is approved, and bired.

MISS *Olympia*, during her Stay at her Cousin *Roberts's*, had been so acceptable a Guest to them, and, by her winning Behaviour, had so ingratiated herself both to him and his Spouse, that no sooner had *Mrs. Roberts* gained Information of the Deplorableness of her Circumstances, than she made *Miss* the Offer of her House, with every Accommodation it would afford her, as she had before been used to, for any unlimited Time that she pleased : Nay, *Mr. Roberts* having no Child, made her an Offer to adopt her as his own, and to provide for her as such, both during his Lifetime, and at his Death also ; of which so gracious Proposal, *Mr. Faulconer* employed every Art to win her to the Acceptance,

ceptance, but all in vain; for Miss declared it would be infinitely more agreeable to her, though under the Capacity of a Servant, to subsist in some Family, where, setting the Wages against her Labour, the Obligation would be mutual between her Lady and herself, than in any other, where she must, at best, but appear in the Capacity of an Alms Girl to every intelligent Eye; notwithstanding she might be treated so favourably as not only to be exempted from servile Offices, but even as a Lady; for that, let the Behaviour she should receive from her Patrons be what it would, she must constantly remain under a most abject Submission to their Caprices, till, by a constant Series of Dissimulation, and Contradiction to her own Inclinations, she should be so involved in an habitual Course of Hypocrisy, as upon any Change of Fortune, she might never be able to shake off again; for that, whatever inward Sense she might have of Things, her Words and Behaviour must correspond with her Patrons, or she must again become an Out-cast, which no Hardships should deter her from avoiding.

There

There was nothing in her Judgment, she said, so ignominious in Servitude, as the Generality of Mankind imagined; many of whom, though more deeply than their Fellows involved in it, and that in the worst Sort of it too, thought no Persons more exempt from it than themselves. Nay, in short, added she, it is so far from being a despised State, that it is even sought after with Inquietudes, and numberless Strugglings, by those who generally esteem themselves the most remote from it.

Mr. *Faulconer* seeming doubtful how she would well maintain her Hypothesis, Miss proceeded. Are not all the high Places in the Kingdom supplied from out of the richest, noblest, and greatest Personages in it? Are they not actual Servants under stated Wages, and as accountable, or more so, to the King and the Public, their Masters, than any Servant in my Cousin's Family is to him? Do they not solicit for Employment? Are they not as thankful for it, and submissive in it, to their Master, as any other Servant to his? Are they not as dependant upon his Pleasure, and equally subject with the others to be displaced?

Then

Then pray tell me, if one of the great Ladies of the Nation is made a Lady of the Bed-chamber to the Queen ; and I, perhaps, am made a Chamber-maid, or Woman of the Bed-chamber to my Lady, where is the Difference in our Servitude ? Servants we both are, and alike subject to command ; but she, perhaps, receives more Wages ; so do I, than some inferior Servant in the Family I live in ; but still, we both have a Duty which must be performed as punctually by one, as the other, or we must turn out ; when here the Ballance inclines to my Side, for another Place may receive me ; but my Lady must remain out of Office, and in Disgrace, for Lack of another Service to fly to.

Tell me then, dear Sir, added Miss, if you are able, what other Difference there is, or will be, between me and the great Ladies at Court, when once I am fixed in a good Service ? Is not Servitude the Lot of us both ? only her Master is greater than mine, who, perhaps, is a Servant himself also, to some one that over-tops him in Title or Estate. Is it not all meer Fancy and Opinion, without the least material Distinction, as to Service and due Subordination ? In short,

short, the greatest Place-man is a Servant, as much as the meanest Plough-boy, but the Sallery varies.

Let us turn our Thoughts from these Objects, to the several Ranks of Men, detached from an immediate Dependence upon a single Lord, and we shall find them but incumbered with so many more. There is the Clergyman, though inducted into so fat a Benefice, as even from the Pinnacle of his Temple, to look downwards upon the labouring Hind that contributes the Tythe-pig, Goose, Egg, and Grain for his loftier sustentation. Is not he as much the Servant of the many headed Master the Public, as I shall be to a private Family? Is he not, by Duty, bound to attend their Call to the Church whenever any of them please to be married? Or when even a Child of a Beggar is to be interred, dares he to absent from his Station?

Is the Country Gentleman less a Servant than his Pastor? Does not his Ambition spur him forwards to solicit the Magistracy? And does he not, from the Moment that he obtains it, devote himself to the Service of the Community? Cannot the meanest Man in his District command him into his Chair, when he
brings

brings but a private Quarrel before him? Does not a Hedge broken, a Hen-roost plundered, or a Sheep stolen, set him strait to work for the Complainant? Is he not obliged to hold petit Sessions, and attend the grand Sessions, at particular Times and Seasons? Not only such as are most pleasing to himself; but to his Masters, the Publick? Nor is all this Servitude undertaken by him, but for Wages.

Nay, nay my Dear, said Mr. *Faulconer*, you have now outshot your Mark, I am satisfied: For never yet in my life, did I hear of the Salary of a Justice of the Peace. So, come, I will allow you florid; but after this Trip, say no more of it: For that I can never imagine thy precious Limbs to have been designed for Servitude.

It was but good Manners, replied Miss, in me, to hear you out; but truly Sir, you seem to have made a random Shot, and that, without any Mark in View too; for wherein have I delivered myself improperly, in mentioning a Magistrate's Wages? Is not every Reward for Service done, or to be done for another, in propriety of Speech, Wages? I am sensible there

there are many Words synonymous therewith ; but as one only, was sufficient for my Purpose, I chose to make use of a common one. What is Wages ? Is it not any Compensation pecuniary, or equivalent, in any Degree to the Duty enjoined ? If I esteem a Title for my Labour, in Preference to so much Cash, and in prospect of it, perform my Service ; is not that Title my proper Wages ? If another, for so much Work done, agrees for an Acre of Land, is not that Land his Wages ? and if a third, for the Sake of his Enrolement in the List of Magistracy, undertakes his Part of that Duty ; is not that Elevation his Wages ? It is palpable, he esteems it so ; for that he is far more anxious for retaining the Service, than I may probably be for any Place I may ever have, and will run further Lengths for the most Part, to prevent his being discarded ; So that turn us which Way ever we will, as the whole Race have mercenary Views, the Acts that will best answer those Views, are all Services, and we all, as properly, each, as other, Servants.

Grieve not therefore, Sir, that my Lot has thrown me upon so common a Station. I most sincerely wish you all the Happiness
that

that this World can afford you, and though ever so remote from you, shall glory in your Affection for me.

These last Words drew Tears so profusely from Mr. *Faulconer's* Eyes, that he was obliged to hide them with his Handkerchief, and retire to the furthest Part of the Room, the better to indulge them in private ; unable to sustain the Shock of a Valediction ; till at length, gaining some more Vigour, he resolved to retire ; but first craved her Leave for frequently revisiting her, before she should reduce her Determination to Practice.

It was scarce more than three Weeks, before some Ladies, who happened to be visiting at Mrs. *Roberts's*, where accidentally talking about the bad Fortune one of them had had with Servants ; when that Class of Gentry chancing to be the Theme, another of them said, that she heartily wished she had any deserving Person to recommend to a young Lady of her Acquaintance, whose own Servant, that had been brought up with her in her Father's Family, and of whom she was exceeding fond, after living with her fifteen Years, was just married, and gone from her. That the young Lady was extremely at
a Loss

a Loss how she should supply her Place, with so prudent, and desirable a Companion: For that after so many Years Intercourse together, she should not easily be reconciled to any other.

Miss *Olympia*, whose future Provision that Way, scarce ever wholly quitted her Brain, took particular Notice of all that was said upon the Subject, and at length, found Occasion for inquiring into the Family of the Person mentioned, and in what Part of the Country she lived. These, were now not long Secrets to her, being attended also with such a Character of the Lady herself, as aggravated Miss *Olympia's* Impatience, for offering herself to the Service; nor could she compose herself, after the Departure of the Company, till she had consulted with her Cousin *Roberts*, in what way she might best introduce herself to the Place.

Mrs. *Roberts*, having had several to converse with, had not been over curious in her Remarks, upon what had chiefly passed between the young Ones; but upon Miss *Olympia's* repeating the Story, and upon laying Things together, she verily imagined the young Lady's Mother to have been of her Maiden Acquaintance; and

at

at length proceeding gradually with her Reflections, she concluded that she must be the same Person, and that she had heretofore seen her Daughter too, when she was very young.

This proving most agreeable News to Miss *Olympia*, she ceased not to urge her Cousin *Roberts*, to accompany her to the Ladies, and upon renewing her Acquaintance with the Mother, at the same Time, to recommend her to the Daughter's Place.

Mrs. *Roberts*, who notwithstanding the seeming Satisfaction that her Kinswoman had for some time mentioned a Service with, could scarce yet believe her to be in Earnest, used many Arts to divert her from such Sentiments; but these all proving ineffectual, at length, upon the serious Intreaties of Miss, engaged to take her with her, as the second Day following, in case she should till then, hold steadfastly to the same Resolution.

Miss would still have been much better satisfied, had not a whole Day interposed to that of their Departure: For she rested upon Thorns, lest such an Opportunity might be lost by that Delay,
as

as might scarce offer itself to her a second Time ; but however, she resolved not to put on an uncommon Concern, lest she should thereby offend her Relations ; though every Moment seem'd an Hour, till the Arrival of the happy Day.

They set out early in the Morning, having about seventeen Miles to go, that they might be able to return by Two, which was their usual Dinner-time. By the way, Miss begged her Cousin, that she would consent to some Things that she had to propose to her, and having obtained her Promise for the Purpose, Miss began as follows,

Dear Cousin, said she, you know, that if this Journey proves but successful to me, I shall soon enter upon a new Scene of Life ; and that, in the very Family, whitherto our now Journey tends. What I would therefore beg you would favour me in is, not to shew your usual Regard for me upon our Arrival ; but to suffer me to be introduced amongst the inferior Domesticks of *Madam Gateley*, (the Lady being so called) as a Person only seeking a Service ; by which Means, should my Attempt prosper, I shall not hereafter

hereafter be put to the Confusion of a Removal, from the Parlour to the Kitchen; but be at once placed, amongst those who are to be my future Companions.

You may observe, dear Cousin, added she, that I had considered what I now say, before I set out, by my having dressed myself in a Character suitable to that I am aiming at, which is no otherwise than what a bettermost Servant, or Lady's Woman may appear in. If you shall please, you may honour me with the Title of a distant Relation, or not, as you see fit; but I must intreat you not to enter into a Detail of my Father's Affairs, or my Family; it being sufficient, I should think, to the Lady's Purpose, that you favour me with such a Recommendation as to my Integrity, and Inclination for her Daughter's Service, as may incline her to imagine, I shall make it my sole Study to please.

Mrs. *Roberts* knew not how to comply with a Desertion of Miss to the Society of the Servants; but at length, through a Repetition of her Request that it might be so, she yielded to it; and being arrived, as she was introducing to Mrs. *Gately*,
she

she turned to *Olympia*, and ordered her to wait in the Hall, till she came out again.

This gave Miss a surprising Delight, as she should then have no Occasion, right or wrong, for a Commixture with the Servants, and she waited with abundance of Patience for a little Time there; but Mrs. *Gately* who had seen two Ladies alighting from the Coach, and finding that only Mrs. *Roberts* entered, soon inquired what was become of the Lady her Companion. This gave Mrs. *Roberts* Occasion to mention the main Purport of her Journey, to be the Introduction of a distant Kinswoman of hers, whose good Humour, Fidelity, and Veracity she would pawn her Life for, as a Servant to the young Lady her Daughter; Miss *Price*, having in a Visit to her the other Day, mentioned at what a loss Miss was for another, having lost so old and faithful a one.

Mrs. *Gately* having replied, that till her Daughter came down, who was to please herself, in a matter so meerly proceeding upon Fancy, she could give no positive Answer; though with herself,
Mrs.

Mrs. *Roberts's* Recommendation would by no Means be neglected.

They fell to renewing their former Acquaintance, by the Repetition of past Occurrences ; enquiring after their youthful Cotemporaries ; and in short, had linked themselves into such a Chain of Discourse, that high Noon was upon them, before they had recollected the time of Day ; and Mrs. *Gately* looking at her Watch, was obliged to retire a few Minutes for Dressing, as her Daughter had some little Time before arrived, to keep Mrs. *Roberts* Company.

Mrs. *Roberts*, had waited only Miss *Gately's* Answer as to her Cousin, and then intended to have returned ; but Mrs. *Gately* before she left her, insisted upon her dining with her, or she should never forgive her, she said : So that unwilling to be too peremptory in her Refusal, and knowing she must be too late for her own Dinner, she agreed to stay, telling the Mother in the Presence of the Daughter, that she would take the Liberty in her Absence, of recommending the young Woman she had brought with her to her Daughter.

She did so, but had not proceeded far, before Miss lamenting the Loss of a Servant, and Companion, that she had so long been used to, asked Mrs *Roberts* if the young Stranger in the Kitchen was the Person she then spoke for? Mrs. *Roberts* replied, that she was the Person, and some sort of a Relation to her, whose Character and Reputation she would vouch for: Nor indeed, had she received by any Means an illiberal Education; but that cross Accidents in Life, had obliged her to take Refuge in a Service. She added, that having an extraordinary Value for her, and hearing Miss wanted a genteel Servant, not for over laborious Exercises, she thought she could not do a more acceptable Service, both to her old Friend Mrs. *Gately*, and also to her Relation, than by bringing them, if possible, together; nor indeed would her Cousin let her rest for a Moment, after she had heard of Miss's Place, before she had engaged her to interest herself in it.

Miss told Mrs. *Roberts*, that with her Leave, she would order the young Woman into the Parlour to her, which Mrs. *Roberts*

Roberts desired her by all Means to do, and to discourse her upon the Duties she should require of her. Miss did so; but having dismissed her again; Madam, said Miss to Mrs. *Roberts*, you would surely impose a Princess upon me, in the Stead of a Servant. The Grace, the Air, the Diction, the Politeness, Motion, and in short, the whole Person of this young Creature, bespeaks her worthy of far better Fortune, than can attend her in my Service. O! that her Temper may but suit with mine, I shall adore her.

Mrs. *Roberts* replied, how sensible she was of the Favour Miss intended her, in the Praises she had bestowed upon her Nominee; but hoped she might insist, without Flattery, that a sweeter tempered Girl never trod the Earth.

There wanted but very few Words to their Bargain: For Mrs. *Gately* soon returning, Miss told her, she would hire the Maid the Lady was so kind to bring her, and asked Mrs. *Roberts*, whether she knew what Wages she would demand. Mrs. *Roberts* replied, she supposed, but the same that she gave to the Maid that had left her; to which Miss replied,

it was ten Pounds a Year, though she knew many Persons hired for less; but as she had ever made her last her Companion, and should this also, as she behaved to her; so requiring them to be ever neater in Apparel, and Linen, than a Household Servant need to be, she made them an Allowance for it in their Wages; and so fond was she of her new Maid, *Mrs. Roberts* could scarce persuade her to part with her again; till assuring her it would be necessary, she should engage for her Return with her Things, on that Day se'night following.

Having therefore adjusted the Point she came upon, it was not long after the Servants had dined, before *Mrs. Roberts* took Coach, and carried her Cousin back with her.

C H A P. X.

Miss Olympia's Submission to Providence.

Mr. Faulconer's Dissuasives. Fears her Marriage in his Absence. Consents to instant Marriage, deferring Consummation. He is confounded at the Proposal. Complies. Are Married. Takes Leave for her new Place. Her Husband goes with her.

MISS Olympia, set herself as cheerfully to work upon preparing Things for her Departure to her Place, as if it had been only for a Visit of Pleasure, to one of her most intimate Friends. She understanding she had gained, by a constant Attention to her Books, and from the Application of numberless Instances to her own Circumstances, had furnished her with Submission to the Will of the Almighty, under such real adverse Occurrences, as would even have distracted a more unthinking Person, in bare Speculation only : For the wise Man ever studies, to render the Event of Things beneficial to him ; as well knowing, Means are not always in his own

126 *The MOTHER-IN-LAW ; or,*
Power ; and so this young Lady behaved ;
intent only upon rendering herself as Com-
petent as possible, for the Condition Fate
had disposed her in.

Mr. *Faulconer*, during the short In-
terval Miss had gained, before she should
fall upon her Labours, had exerted the
very utmost of his Rhetorick and Abili-
ties, for averting the fatal Engagement
she had resolved upon, by a Representa-
tion of each Discommodity, that this new
Way of Life might be subject to ; such,
as the Disgrace it would be to her should
she ever, (as he hoped she one Day
would) be situated in higher Life, to have
it retorted upon her, that she was but a
Servant-maid the other Day ; the De-
pression it would occasion of her Spirits,
to be ever under the Will of a Mistress,
and acting but as a Horse or Mule, solely
at the Command of another ; besides,
that the usual Discourses of a Reprobate,
and debauched Set of her fellow Servants,
with whom she would be compelled to
confort herself, would by no means suit
the Ear of a Person so virtuous, chaste,
and inculpable as she was. Good Mo-
rals, he added, were more easily lost by
associating with vicious Companions, than
they

they were at first attained ; and very few People were able to with-hold themselves from assimilating their Manners, to their Fellows : So that upon every Consideration that he could collect or form, he would advise her to make her Excuse to the Lady, and to leave her to some future Choice of an Hand-maid.

He told her, that at worst, she need not be in such Haste, since her Cousin had offered her a Maintenance, for so long time as she pleased ; nor indeed, was he doubtful, he said, but, having many ancient and rich Relations, who could not live for ever, some of them must soon drop off, when he expected handsome Legacies from them, by the Aid whereof, he might put himself into some method of maintaining her.

Miss smiled at his Fears, and Doubts ; but assured him, she hoped, she should never look above the Degree assigned her by Providence ; and that as a Service seemed the only thing at present offering, she should embrace it joyfully. She desired him also, to seek out for some Means of advancing himself ; for that if

Fortune should ever prove Propitious to their Endeavours, and his Inclination for their Union should still subsist, she would never retract her Engagement to him.

All this would not yet satisfy the Lover; such a Number of unforeseen Accidents might interpose, to his promised Felicity with her, that he could never support the Thoughts of a Separation from her. My Dear, added he, the Pleasure wherewith I ever have, and still do view you, assures me, that you can be no less amiable in the Eyes of my whole Sex; then can each other Person, think you, be such a Master of his Passions, as not eagerly to grasp at making you his own as I do?

Will it be possible for you, a poor abandoned Servant, in my Absence, to withstand the advantageous Proposal that may be made to you, of setting you at the Helm of some opulent Family? No, it is both out of Reason, and Nature, to suspect it. What, think you then, my Love, added he, must be my Condition, when once it shall reach my Knowledge, that my Hopes are all blasted, by your
uniting

uniting yourself, irretrivably to some other Man?

Can any Man who loves like me, my Dear, think you, subsist under the Terror of such a distorted Imagination, ever attending him, and pricking him forwards to Despair? Then suffer me, dearest Creature, to pour forth my most pathetick Intreaties to you, for deserting all Thoughts of this Service; and for according to instant Marriage with me.

Sir, said Miss *Olympia*, the chief Concern you seem to struggle under is, lest in my Absence from you, I should be induced to some other Marriage. Would you rest contented, under a Certainty of your Escape from that Inconvenience? He owned, he could, if she still remained determined upon going to her Place. Then, answered Miss, assure yourself, that from this Time, nothing but some instant Advancement in our Affairs shall ever divert me; but in order to contribute all within my Power to your Pacification; provided you will consent to one Request that I shall make to you, I will condescend to become your Wife immediately.

Mr. *Faulconer* seized her in his Arms, and could there be that Thing in Nature, he said, that he could refuse to the Sweetness of her Demanding, in Compensation for the Felicity, her Submission to instant Marriage would place him in ? and forthwith made his Demand upon her, to propose the Request she had to offer him.

Miss replied, that she should insist upon his most solemn Promise, never to propose to her a Consummation of their Marriage, till their Affairs should turn out, correspondent to the Purpose they at first set out with ; and that though she would admit of as great a Latitude as he pleased in their epistolary Correspondence ; yet, that he would never insist upon, or even request her to cohabit with him, till one, or the other of them, should possess enough for their liberal Subsistence.

This Demand, arising so contrary to his every Expectation, reduced Mr. *Faulconer* to an extremity of Anguish. The only thing in Life he had so earnestly sought for, to be annexed to a Condition, so destructive to the very End it was designed for, drove him almost
wild

wild with Confusion ; but hoping still, that it might not be impossible to mitigate the Rigour of her Demand, he intreated her no longer to torture him with Doubts ; but to declare to him, whether she was in earnest or not ? She replied, that she was, and backed it with so many cogent Reasons, that at last, finding it would be Labour in vain to strive longer against the Torrent of her Determination, he submitted, and in the most serious, and deliberate manner imaginable, bound himself by Promises, to her Satisfaction.

They were married the very next Day, and now they became more explicit in their real Sentiments to each other ; but her Resolves were too peremptory, for him to attempt the least Infringement of them : There was now, an unrestrained Intercourse settled between them, for the few Days it was only to continue ; they were scarce ever assunder in the Day-time, nor omitted they the Course of any other Endearment between them, save that of Bedding together, as had first been stipulated against.

It was mutually agreed to preserve a Correspondence by Letter, and that Mr.

Faulconer

Faulconer should comply with an Offer an Uncle of his had heretofore made him of sending him to *Bombay*, in the Service of the *East-India* Company. They allowed it would be some Years before he would return again; but as no Method appeared to them so feasible for raising a Fortune as that, they both subscribed to so tedious a Separation, it promising a happy re-uniting at last.

The Morning being now come for Mrs. *Faulconer's* Journey to her Place, Mrs. *Roberts* had lent her her Coach for the Expedition, and would have accompanied her herself, had not Mrs. *Faulconer* insisted upon it, not only as a Work of Supererogation, but that it would favour of Impropriety, for her to attend upon so mean an Office as that of introducing her Relation to a Service, when she must have so many Miles to re-travel afterwards by herself, so that she soon laid aside her Purpose.

Mr. *Faulconer* came very early that Morning, that he might not lose a Moment of his dear Wife's Company before he was to part with her indefinitely; but the Instant being come for her stepping into the Vehicle, she had now taken

taken her hearty Farewel of Mr. *Roberts* and his Lady, and thanked them for all Favours, when a far more solemn Scene was about to succeed, upon her Valediction to her dearest Husband. Mr. *Faulconer*, whilst the Thanks and Compliments had flown thick alternately, between his Wife and her Relations, stood palid and trembling, just like to a Malefactor under Expectation of his immediate Sentence; nor had a Syllable escaped his Lips, till she turning from them, he caught her in his Arms, where, in that conjoined Attitude, they wept silently on each other's Bosom for a long Time, neither of them venturing to issue a Syllable, lest the Torrent of Dolour, as yet confined to their own Breasts, upon the least Vent given to it, should issue forth too furiously for all Restraint. At length Mrs. *Faulconer*, unwilling to keep her Friends standing, and recollecting that early or late, the Moment of parting must arrive, in order to put a Stop to their useless Perplexities, breaking from his Embrace, and taking his Hand in hers;

My Dear, said she, I am under the utmost Confusion at our present Behaviour

viour before my good Cousins. You are as sensible as I am of the Necessity of our present Separation; nor are we the first Couple by thousands, who have voluntarily submitted to like Conditions, under the same Prospects with ourselves. The Mariner, of every Denomination, by Choice, takes annual Farewells of his Spouse, whilst we, in Hopes of this one only, may meet again, never more to part. Have we not, continued she, made this Way of Life our Choice? Then, if we mean to prosper, let us persevere with Alacrity, and labouring each for the Happiness of the other, fear not but that the Duty will be delightful that will ever have so desirable an End in View; then saluting him, farewell! said she, till Providence shall again please to re-unite us; and in the mean time let us both so behave as to render ourselves deserving Objects of its due Protection.

She waited not for a Reply, which she beheld him (past Utterance) struggling with; but dropping a Courtesy to her Relations, she stepped away to the Coach, and had seated herself for moving, when her Husband running up, stepped

stepped in also, vowing, that as there would be still some spare Moments left for enjoying each other during the Journey, he would not, by suffering her to depart alone, be deprived of the Benefit of them; so that maintaining his Station against a faint Opposition from the Lady, they both moved off together.

As to their mutual Expressions of Tenderneſs upon the Road, we muſt neceſſarily caſt a Vail over them, being Tranſactions meerly in private; but the Servants, upon their Return, reported, that Mr. *Faulconer*, about a Mile ſhort of their Journey's End, ordered the Coach to ſtop at an Inn, into which, no Intreaties of his could prevail for his Lady's following him; but that they had both wept for the whole Journey, no Diſpute was to be made, they ſaid; for that, when Mr. *Faulconer* left her, both their Eyes were as red as Blood. They added, that after Mr. *Faulconer* had quitted the Coach, finding ſhe would by no Means follow him, he ſtill hung upon the Window in ſuch a Manner, that they could not proceed, though his Lady, had often intreated him to depart; till at length, turning about to call for a Glaſs

Glass of Wine, the Coachman being apprised of the Lady's Inclination, and giving his Horses a Whip, away went the Coach, and left the Gentleman behind it.

Madam, upon her Arrival, they said, would not suffer them to bait at the Lady's, but ordered them back to the Inn with all Expedition; where meeting with Mr. *Faulconer*, they had baited, and from thence brought him home to within about a Quarter of a Mile of his Father's, where they set him down, and took Leave of him.

C H A P. XI.

Account of Mr. Faulconer's Family. Provision for his going to India. Letter to his Wife thereon. Her Answer. Pursues her Advice. Letter from him. Her Answer. Another from him. Her Answer before his Departure.

HAVING mentioned Mr. *Faulconer* as the only Person worthy the Affections of this amiable and resigned Lady, his now Spouse, it may be expected

ed I should bring my Reader somewhat acquainted with his Family.

Mr. *Hervey Faulconer* (he receiving that christian Appellative from his Grand, and God-father, his Mother's Father) was the youngest Son of four of *James Faulconer*, Esq; a Gentleman of between three and four hundred Pounds a Year Estate, and no distant Neighbour from Mr. *Roberts*, between whom, and that old Gentleman's Family, had subsisted a peculiar Familiarity and good Understanding for many Years before.

Old Mr. *Faulconer* had also three Daughters; but the greatest Part of his Estate being in Settlement upon his eldest Son, and but a small Charge upon it for the Benefit of younger Children, it cannot be imagined that any great Sum should fall to the Share of each; nor could they even arrive to that, till after the Decease of their Father, who was by no means to be called an old Man, being, at the Time I am now speaking of, but just turned of Fifty.

Mr. *Faulconer*, the Father, had a Brother somewhat elder than himself, who, from a Writer, sent out to the *Indies*, in few Years had returned Master of a
very

very large Fortune ; which, for the sake of being near his Brother, he had mostly converted into Land in that Neighbourhood, reserving but little more in Cash, than might qualify him for a Director of the *East-India* Company, being what he had twice or thrice unsuccessfully aimed at, though he had a very considerable Interest there.

This Gentleman it is, who, finding Mr. *Hervey Faulconer* a most ingenious and promising young Man, and considering that his Brother could not provide for so many Children as he had, in any Methods of superior Life, had testified his Inclination for introducing young Mr. *Hervey* to the Company's Service, as a ready Means of making his Fortune ; but the Thing had been so slackly pursued on the young Gentleman's Part, that nothing had as yet been done in it.

Now it was that Mr. *Hervey Faulconer*, upon the Loss of his Wife (it being a profound Secret to every one but Mr. *Roberts's* Family that he was married) and from her earnest Recommendation at parting with him, made as early an Application as possible to his
Uncle

Uncle for his Interest to enter him in the Company's Service.

This the old Gentleman seemed highly pleased with, told him that some of their Ships would depart in about six Weeks Time for *Bombay*, and that he would instantly go to Town and secure him a Birth with them. This he so effectually executed, that he had not been more than a Week there, before he wrote for Mr. *Hervey* to set forwards for *London* directly, he having made Provision for him by the next Shipping.

Though our Bridegroom had shewn himself so eager for his new Post, whilst it seemed as a Thing only in Speculation; yet, now the Scheme was not only become practicable, but determined, the Thoughts of such a distant Separation from his Wife, so cut him to the Heart, that he had very nigh determined with himself to have declined it: Nay, till he had again consulted his Spouse upon it, he not only forbore all preparatory Advances towards his Voyage, but even confined the Arrival of such Letter from his Uncle to his own Breast too.

Hiring

140 *The MOTHER-IN-LAW; or,*

Hiring, therefore, a strange Messenger, he sent his Wife the following Letter :

Mr. *Hervey Faulconer*, to Miss *Olympia Isaacson*.

‘ *My dearest Life,*

‘ **I** Have sent you these Issues of a
‘ Heart almost distracted, that I may,
‘ in Answer to them, receive that Con-
‘ solation in the Strait I am under,
‘ which only your serious Opinion and
‘ Advice, can administer to me.

‘ I have, as had been concerted be-
‘ tween us, applied so critically to my
‘ Uncle for my Advancement in the
‘ *India* Company, that what I could
‘ have wished protracted for these twelve
‘ Months, or rather never to have been
‘ effected, is confined to the narrow Li-
‘ mits of little more than a Month, be-
‘ fore I must engage in it, he having
‘ wrote for me instantly to Town to him,
‘ from whence I have no Hopes of re-
‘ turning before my Voyage.

‘ Let me intreat my beloved Wife to
‘ consider seriously before I take such a
‘ Step,

‘ Step, as perhaps we may both, upon
‘ after Thought, condemn, and to send
‘ me her Advice for my Conduct, since
‘ nothing else can determine me either
‘ for going, or staying, or free me from
‘ a Deluge of Inquietude, whilst I shall
‘ remain in the uncertain State of Irre-
‘ solution I am now in.

‘ My Dearest, pray bring to the Ac-
‘ count, how remote we shall be situated
‘ from each other if I go; and that even
‘ one whole revolving Year cannot bring
‘ me an Answer to what I shall write you
‘ from thence. Consider, I say, that
‘ many Chances may intervene to de-
‘ prive me of ever beholding my dear
‘ Wife more. Consider what may be
‘ the Anguish of either, or both our
‘ Minds, on being deprived of even a
‘ most necessary Interview now-and-then
‘ between us. Weigh thoroughly each
‘ possible Anxiety that may arrive to
‘ either upon my Departure from you;
‘ and having resolved upon the Voyage
‘ (it that shall prove your Pleasure), re-
‘ lease me for this once from the strict
‘ Obligation I am under not to visit
‘ you; and grant me your Licence to
‘ take the parting Kifs from those dear
‘ Lips

‘ Lips, mine never could, by Choice,
 ‘ be disjoined from. O! let us perfo-
 ‘ nally, if part we must, renew our
 ‘ Vows of everlasting Constancy, the
 ‘ only Comfort I am capable of receiv-
 ‘ ing, to counter-balance the Woes I
 ‘ must have in Expectation when di-
 ‘ vided from you, by almost the whole
 ‘ Earth’s Diameter.

‘ Return, my dearest Angel, your
 ‘ Answer by the Bearer, and thereby
 ‘ render either the happiest, or most
 ‘ wretched of Mortals,

‘ *Your most sincerely*

‘ *affectionate Husband,*

‘ H. FAULCONER.’

P. S. ‘ I direct to you not as I would,
 ‘ but as you desired me.’

Miss *Olympia Faulconer*, to Mr. *Hervey*
Faulconer.

‘ *My Dear,*

‘ **T**HAT the Woes of Mankind
 ‘ are mostly of their own dressing
 ‘ up, in such gasty Shapes, as at last to
 ‘ terrify even themselves, is a Doctrine

‘ I

‘ I never had more Reason to hold for
‘ valid, than upon Sight of the Epistle
‘ you sent me subscribed by your own
‘ Hand. Nay, to be plain with you,
‘ though I cannot absolutely condemn
‘ your mistaken Argument, myself be-
‘ ing, as I would flatter myself, the sole
‘ Inspirer of your unaccountable Rea-
‘ sonings thereupon; had I perused your
‘ Labours under the like Prejudices that
‘ you wrote them with, my Heart,
‘ ’tis sure had been almost broken,
‘ in Sense of those Horrors I must have
‘ been filled with at your hinted-at ap-
‘ proaching Calamities.

‘ Either you deceive me, and are de-
‘ ceived yourself, or there is nothing
‘ upon Earth more ardently desired by
‘ you than an uninterrupted Co-habita-
‘ tion between us, under all the virtuous
‘ Delights that an easy Affluence and
‘ perpetual Concord can afford us. What
‘ was ever proposed by your Voyage to
‘ *India*, and Employment there for some
‘ Time, but that, by an Acquisition of
‘ that easy Affluence for our future Sup-
‘ port, we might enjoy that blessed
‘ Union? Were any readier Means pro-
‘ posed for attaining these Ends? If so,
let

‘ let us try them ; but if this Voyage
 ‘ was the sole Requisite, why would you
 ‘ boggle at it ?

‘ Had as ready an Expedient for
 ‘ procuring our Desires been proposed
 ‘ to my Execution, I had, in Imagina-
 ‘ tion, rather have wished myself at the
 ‘ *Cape* by this Time, than have studied
 ‘ the Protraction of so desirable an Event,
 ‘ though but for a single Moment.

‘ My dear Husband must imagine me
 ‘ a notorious Hypocrite, before he can
 ‘ wait my Determination either for his
 ‘ going or staying, having ever given
 ‘ my Judgment in Preference to this,
 ‘ which hath been indisputably conclud-
 ‘ ed between us ; nor, though some
 ‘ undesirable Inconveniences will attend
 ‘ every Action of our Lives, are we
 ‘ therefore justifiable in sitting idle, and
 ‘ doing nothing that may help our-
 ‘ selves.

‘ Believe me, my Love, I have fully
 ‘ weighed and considered, by what Means
 ‘ we may most happily come together ;
 ‘ but if farther considering from an Over-
 ‘ abundance of minute Circumstances, I
 ‘ should once deter you, or myself,
 ‘ from prosecuting what we have ap-
 proved,

‘ proved ; our Lives may be spent in
‘ Preparation, for what we may hope in
‘ vain, on this Side of the Grave.

‘ As for my releasing you from your
‘ Obligation not to visit me, it can an-
‘ swer only to the peevish Call of an un-
‘ manly Fancy ; nor am I such a Friend
‘ to a second Parting from you, as ever
‘ to desire a Meeting between us, till
‘ we may do it without the Dread of part-
‘ ing at all ; and as for further Vows of
‘ Constancy, if those already passed be-
‘ tween us, can decay through Age, a
‘ fresh Set can last but a few Weeks lon-
‘ ger, which were not worth our while
‘ to contend for.

‘ Prosecute then, my dearest Husband,
‘ the Means we have proposed, for the
‘ Advancement of the End we are aim-
‘ ing at, and that, without any further
‘ Dalliance between us, till we may be
‘ happy altogether.

‘ Let me hear from you constantly,
‘ and how to address myself to you,
‘ that in personal Absence, our Souls
‘ may sympathize in all Things com-
‘ mendable ; and then my Love need
‘ never fear Prosperity attending his

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‘ Wishes, to the Arms of his loving
‘ Wife,

OLYMPIA FAULCONER.’

Mr. *Faulconer*’s Messenger returning with the above Letter from his Wife, scarce had he given it a second Perusal, before he was upon the Road in his Journey to *London*; from whence, he immediately sent her the following, by the Post.

Mr. *Hervey Faulconer*, to Mrs. *Olympia Isaacson*.

‘ N EVER could I have imagined
‘ the Day would arrive, wherein
‘ I should more pleasurably write to,
‘ than converse with my ever dear and excellent *Olympia*; but that it is, is most
‘ apparent to me: For my Dear, after
‘ reading your nervous Dictates, fraught
‘ only with Magnanimity and masculine
‘ Intrepidity; how convicted do I stand in
‘ my own Judgment, and covered with
‘ Blushes, for the Meanness of my own
‘ Sentiments!

‘ Pardon me, my Love, the Spirit
‘ that inspires most Men with Firmness
‘ in the Cause of their Mistresses, was in
‘ me, converted into Cowardice; and
‘ till

‘ till in your last Lines, I beheld not my
‘ own Folly. How could I have rested near
‘ thee in Inactivity, rather than by a bold
‘ Push at Fortune for a Time, absenting
‘ from thee, have paved myself a Way
‘ to the Possession of thee for ever.

‘ But what I have here stated, is only
‘ what I have been encouraged to, by
‘ your more laudable Example. I find
‘ myself here in Town, even more intent,
‘ if possible, upon my Departure, than
‘ ever I before was upon my Stay with
‘ you. How happy is the Man that can
‘ submit to the Regulation of his Con-
‘ duct, from Example? But how much
‘ more so he, who never wants an Ad-
‘ viser, as willing, as capable, to direct
‘ him in every Occurrence of his Life?

‘ I am to be presented to the Board of
‘ Directors To-morrow, and our Ship
‘ being near laden, I know not how soon
‘ I may be called on Board. I long to
‘ be at my Post, as the sooner I engage
‘ in it, the sooner I shall hope to desert
‘ it, for the Breast of my dearest Wife,
‘ the sole eligible Assylum, to her

‘ *Most truly Loving Husband,*

H. FAULCONER.’

*Mrs. Olympia Faulconer, to Mr. Hervey
Faulconer.*

‘ **N**othing could have been more
 ‘ welcome to me, than the good
 ‘ Part, which my dearest Husband took
 ‘ my Last in ; for a less affectionate Man
 ‘ might have perverted my Meaning to
 ‘ my own Dishonour ; but you, my
 ‘ Dear, having ascribed to it its genuine
 ‘ Meaning, I would hope are as sensible,
 ‘ not only of its Propriety but its Utility,
 ‘ as I can be ; nay, though I wrote so
 ‘ peremptorily, yet my very Heart
 ‘ trembled, all the while my Hand was
 ‘ belying it ; for as nothing but your
 ‘ Love for me, could have forced that
 ‘ Reluctance to your Voyage from me,
 ‘ so believe me, had my Heart been at
 ‘ Liberty to have contradicted it, nothing
 ‘ would have been more agreeable to
 ‘ me ; but the great Good standing ever
 ‘ in my View, in Opposition to your re-
 ‘ maining idle here, urged me to press
 ‘ your Departure.

‘ If it proves convenient, fail not to
 ‘ let me have the Pleasure of another
 ‘ Line from you, signifying, if possible,
 ‘ the

‘ the Day of your Sailing, that I may
‘ keep it as a strict and solemn Fast, to
‘ implore every Blessing upon your En-
‘ terprize. First, that you may escape
‘ the Dangers of the Ocean ; then, enjoy
‘ your Health in a strange Climate ; then,
‘ that every of your Undertakings there
‘ may be prosperous ; also, that in due
‘ Time, you may return, above the
‘ future Drudgery of the World ; and
‘ lastly, that neither Person, Thing, or
‘ Cause may intervene, to the Diversion
‘ of my ever dear Husband’s Affections,
‘ from the Person of

‘ *His most dutiful,*

‘ *and affectionate Wife,*

‘ *OLYMPIA FAULCONER.*’

*Mr. Hervey Faulconer, to Mrs. Olympia
Isaacson.*

‘ **T**HE Sincerity of the Love, ex-
‘ pressed in the last my beloved
‘ Wife sent me, almost unmanned me,
‘ whilst I perused it. Believe, my Love,
‘ that it must be impossible for an heart-
‘ less Man to possess himself of any other

‘ Object, than of her who maintains,
 ‘ not only the Possession of his lost
 ‘ Heart, but of his very Soul too.

‘ My Father has advanced me Fifty
 ‘ Pounds upon my Out-set, as also has my
 ‘ Uncle the like Sum, besides laying me
 ‘ in a large Stock of Stores for the Voy-
 ‘ age, and Clothes in Abundance. One
 ‘ of the Fifty Pound Notes, which I
 ‘ was to have converted into Cash,
 ‘ I hereby transmit to you, who may
 ‘ probably, have far more Occasion for
 ‘ it, than I shall; for your Wages will
 ‘ scarce provide you with common De-
 ‘ cencies, much less with now and then a
 ‘ good Gown to your Back, which I
 ‘ shall ever pride myself to think you
 ‘ appear in.

‘ The Day appointed for our Sailing
 ‘ is next *Monday*, Wind and Weather
 ‘ permitting; though I presume, we
 ‘ shall scarce quit the Channel for several
 ‘ Days after. I shall be on Board next
 ‘ *Sunday* Night; so that should you
 ‘ miss a single Post, I must desire you
 ‘ to write no more, till you hear farther
 ‘ from me, lest it should fall into improp-
 ‘ er Hands.

‘ That therefore all manner of Prof-
 ‘ perity may attend my ever dear Wife,
 together

‘ together with a speedy Release from
‘ her ignominious Servitude, and that
‘ we may both happily meet again,
‘ never more till Death shall part, is
‘ the sincere Petition, of

‘ *My dear Life,*

‘ *Your most faithful, and*

‘ *affectionate Husband,*

‘ H. FAULCONER.’

*Mrs. Olympia Faulconer, to Mr. Hervey
Faulconer.*

‘ **E**XCUSE, my Dear, the Scribble
‘ of these few Lines, the half
‘ Moment that I write them in being
‘ stolen from my Lady’s Dressing Table,
‘ whilst the Post-man has been bribed by
‘ me to wait for them.

‘ I have but Time to hope, that the
‘ Almighty Maker of us all, will please
‘ to return you safe, in his good Time,
‘ to my craving Arms.

‘ As to the Note you was so good to
‘ send me, I herewith return it, as

H 4

‘ useless

‘ useleſs to me ; though doubt not,
 ‘ but you will, Abroad, feel its Con-
 ‘ ſequence. I would ſay more, having
 ‘ a long Train of Matter behind ; but
 ‘ am called away : So no more ſhall I
 ‘ deſire than your Happineſs, and that
 ‘ you will believe me,

‘ *The moſt dutiful,*
 ‘ *and loving of Wives.*

‘ OLYMPIA FAULCONER.’

C H A P. XII.

Difſertation upon Servitude. Mrs. Faulconer’s Character in Mrs. Gateley’s Family. Miſs Gateley over favours her. She finds Fault with it. Long Conference between her and Miſs Gateley. Miſs finds out her Marriage and Family. Miſs Gateley pitties her. Mrs. Faulconer fears being turned away. Dinner breaks off their Diſcourſe till Afternoon.

IT is plain that Servitude, as to the Thing itſelf, diſrobed of the miſchievous Appendages too frequently annexed to

to it, is not that indignant State it is too commonly suspected to be; nor would it find so much Discredit from the Generality of Mankind, but through the Blame of those who engage in it.

The vulgar Herd of Mankind, to whose Lot this chiefly falls, for want of some Politure in their Education in early Life, notwithstanding the Indigence of their Circumstances, soon look upon themselves to be as good as their Master; and though all the Commodities of Life flow through him to them, yet they yeilding him, as they take it, *a quid pro quo*, in their Service, disdain even the gentlest Sound of Exhortation from him; little imagining themselves, however variant in external Benefits, a Jot less capable of steering themselves, and directing of others, than himself.

From hence arises an Impatience of Submission, a sordid, and disingenuous Behaviour, in Opposition to their Master's Service; a Disregard of his Anger, and of farther Continuance with him; well knowing, that the Market is large, the Customers numerous, and that if one will not, another will: So that provided they can but secure to themselves new

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Places, before they have squandered away
the whole Profits of the old ones, the
World being ever beginning with them,
they seldom project farther Advantages.

Now he who inlists himself to a Service, ought no less to study a Continuance in it, if he means to thrive by it, than the Tradesman, in his way of Business, who never chooses to shift his Station, but rather puts up with many Inconveniences on the Spot whereon he has gained an Establishment, than he will, without some apparant Advantage, remove to other Quarters. A Servant, ought therefore to fix it as a Maxim with himself to apply himself wholly to his Duty, at all such Times as it calls upon him for the Performance of it. He ought to behave therein with Diligence, Willingness, Submission, and such Alacrity, that it may rather seem a desirable Employment, than one submitted to of Necessity, and by Compulsion. These are the only Methods of rendering himself happy, and his Service acceptable: Nor are there many Masters such Churls, as to treat a Servant of this Cast, with Inhumanity.

Mrs. *Faulconer*, from the Fund of Improvement she was Mistress of, made
her

her Election for this latter Behaviour : Infomuch, that before she had been a Month in Miss *Gately's* Service, she was even more careffed by her young Lady, than ever her late Companion had been.

Miss *Gately*, no less than her Mother, and all the inferior House, could presently discern that *Olly*, (as she was generally stiled amongst them) had somewhat in her Manner and Behaviour, far transcending the Station she appeared in. This, though usually is but derided by a fellow Servant, yet, her gentle Manner of Address, even to these, so wrought upon their Inclinations in Favour of her, that neither Man or Maid in the Family, but esteemed it an Obligation, whenever she would suffer them to be assistant to her; nor was one of them less ready to run, or act, at her Request, but rather more pleasingly so, than at the immediate Order of either the old Lady, or her Daughter.

As to Miss *Gately*, she was too sensible of the valuable Prize she was possessed of, ever once to cast a random Thought after her former Woman, requisitory of her Return : For scarce had Mrs. *Faulconer* been a full Month in
her

her Service, before she perceived herself so esteemed as an Intimate and Companion, that not the least Shadow of a servile Office was recommended to her, but with far more Pain to her Lady in proposing it, than to herself in the Execution.

Thus Matters passed between them for about a Quarter of a Year, when Miss *Gately* frequently transacted those Things for herself, which Mrs. *Faulconer*, in Duty, stood liable to; till this was grown so familiar, that Mrs. *Faulconer* could behold it but with an ill Eye, and at length, took upon her to condemn her young Lady for it, alledging, that she entered not into her Service, with a Prospect of seeing her Lady perform the Function of her own Servant. That she had hoped, she should have been capable of executing all her Commands, to her Satisfaction; but rather than find herself deficient in her Service, to such a Degree, as to cast the labouring Oar upon her Lady, she had much rather retire to some Place, where she might be able to give better Content.

Miss *Gately*, who expected not this Charge, from one whom she so greatly favoured,

favoured, and for whose Sake alone, she had drawn upon herself this Condemnation, replied, *Olly*, I was in great Hopes, that you had not taken Notice of the few little Tokens of my Regard for you, that have sometimes escaped me ; but since I find myself so generously reproved by you for them, give me leave for a few Words with you.

First, *Olly*, added she, permit me to assure you, that I never in my whole Life was more deceived in any Person, than I have found my Expectations frustrated in you. You well know that I hired you as my Servant, to be employed in such little Offices as would be useful to me, about my Person ; but I must take the Liberty of insisting, that you are so far from the Person I took you for, that had our Stations been inverted, we had each much better sustained our Characters ; you, that of the Lady, and myself of the waiting Woman.

Mrs. *Fauloner* not readily taking her Meaning, burst into Tears, hoping, as she told Miss, that nothing in her past Behaviour, could prove her sufficient Warrant for taxing her with the least
Action,

Action, or Intimation, of behaving above the Condition she had with such Sedulity engaged in. Certain she was, she said, that she had made it hitherto her sole Study, to demean herself with all Duty to Miss, so far as her Power would extend; neither could any one Circumstance upon Earth administer more Delight to her, than a Consciousness of her Services proving acceptable to so gentle a Benefactress, as Miss had ever shewn herself to her; neither could she collect from any Part of her past Carriage in Miss's Service, whereupon she could ground so foundationless a Charge, as that of a Deceiver against her; a Thing, as far from her own Intentions, as it was abhorrent from her very Nature.

We shall understand one another better presently, said Miss; therefore dry away those Tears, that more sensibly affect my Heart, than they can your own; whilst I lay open my Mind more plainly to you: For believe me, *Olly*, added she, both your Pleasures and Pains affect me, at least, equally, with my dearest and most amiable Companion.

I have not been so blind Child, added Miss, ever since you have lived with me, as not to have discovered the shining and polite Lady in you, under the too thin Disguise of a Chamber-maid ; nor have I been so little observant of your Manner, in every of your Transactions with me, as you may imagine I have ; not a Pin have you stuck, not a Plait have you folded, not a Touch has passed from you to me, but under the strictest Examination imaginable on my Side, lest Accident, might have led me into Error ; but when the whole Series of your Actions hath conspired, to the Confirmation of my good Opinion of you ; I think, it is scarce Credible, that I should be mistaken : Nay, my dearest *Olly*, for so give me leave to call you, not only your Actions have above measure interested me in you ; but had I been born blind as to them, the Propriety of your Speeches, the Supereminence of your Sentiments, and the Elegancy of your Diction, must have informed me of the superior Talents you possessed, and that these, could not have been so superlatively improved, without a genteel and liberal Education, deserving of another

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ther Manner of Fortune than has fallen
to you in my Service ; to which, you
are, in my Opinion, more unworthy than
I would judge myself to be, of your
debased Station ; for which Reason, should
I longer detain you in it, I should hold
myself in the highest Degree culpable.

Alas, Miss ! what do I hear ? replied
Mrs. *Faulconer*. Is it possible, that what
you would insinuate as Matter of Merit
in me, should contribute to my utter
Disgrace with you ? If to have sought,
with unlimited Anxiety, your Pleasure
in every of my Thoughts and Actions ;
if to have performed my Duty towards
you inscrupulously ; if to have studied a
zealous Attachment to your Person ; and
if Purposes past Retraction, to render
my most implicit Obedience to all your
Orders, are criminal in me, I have, in-
deed, most justly deserved to be rejected
by you ; but if otherwise, and yet you
are pleased to dismiss me, I shall, ne-
vertheless, sincerely wish you some other
in my Room, better qualified for proving
successful in it, whilst I shall seek out
for some new Assylum to shelter my
Misfortunes in.

Mrs.

Mrs. *Faulconer* then seeking a Vent for her Tears, which obstructed her further Delivery of herself, was turning from her young Lady, that she might indulge over her Disappointment in private; when Miss catching her by the Hand, Hold, *Oly*, said she, I mean not to part with you so abruptly; come, every Thing must have a Beginning; now, therefore, sit down by me whilst I reveal somewhat more of my Mind to you.

Mrs. *Faulconer*, who with the Degree had assumed the Deference of a Servant too, used abundance of Arguments against being seated in the Presence of her Lady, as that she was very well able to stand so long as ever it would please Miss to confer with her; nay, indeed, that were it otherwise, the Confusion she should be under in such an improper Situation before her, would withdraw her Attention from what she should be pleased to say to her: But whatsoever she could urge against Miss's Resolution, was in vain; for if she paid the least Regard to her Pleasure, Miss told her, she would make no more Words of it, but obey her.

Mrs.

Mrs. *Faulconer* at length complying, Miss told her, she need be under no more Apprehensions of having offended her; for that she had never yet beheld any thing in her unworthy of her own Imitation; and as she was persuaded, the Education she must have received, had been gained in no despicable Family, she must insist upon her disclosing to her who she was, and who were her Parents and Relations; and by what Turn of Chance, she came to be driven to a Service.

Not in the least expecting this home Question, Mrs. *Faulconer* blushed immoderately; but, under the Hurry of her Spirits, kept Silence; till Miss again putting it to her so peremptorily, that she seemed impatient of the least Hesitation: Mrs. *Faulconer* replied, that she had hoped the Obscurity of her Situation, would never have afforded her Cause for a Retrospection upon what she had once been, having perfectly resigned herself to the Rank Providence had been pleased to allot her in Life. It must needs be very irksome to her, she told her Lady (nor could she herself but esteem it so) to rake back into those
Ashes

Ashes that must scorch her very Soul in the Touch only ; nor could she, in the Relation of her Story, but reflect on her dearest Father (whose Memory must bleed fresh in her Mind) without the acutest Sensations of Sorrow : For which Reasons, she intreated Miss to excuse her from engaging in a Topic that must prove so afflicting to her. As to the Station of Life she was then fixed in, if Miss, she said, would be so benevolent to her, as not only to overlook her Failings, but to accept, in good Part, her sincerest Endeavours for her Service, and still retain her in it, she should have arrived at the utmost of her Ambition, till Fate should, in Compassion to her past Sufferings, relent to her, by introducing the single Event that could ever compleat her Felicity.

This moving Speech of Mrs. *Faulconer's*, proved but fresh Fuel to her young Lady's Importunities, which caused them to rage more impetuously ; for her Curiosity over-ballancing all Decency, she now insisted upon an impartial Answer to the several Queries she had proposed to her ; and at the same time, to induce her to the more ready Compliance,

ance, solemnly protested to employ every Means in her Power for her Redress; till at length, having urged every Motive she could hope to avail herself of, and Mrs. *Faulconer* having first enjoined her Silence in the Affair, even to her own Maanma, she began, by assuring her, that within far less than three Years past, she esteemed herself the most opulent Heiress in *Gloucestershire*; and then proceeded with her whole History as I have before related it; nor failed she to set forth her Mother-in-law, decked in her most malignant Colourings, till she at length brought herself into her young Lady's Service; but not a Word all this while of her Courtship or Nuptials.

Miss was so affected with her Catastrophe, that, for a considerable Time, she wept over her, as a Mother over the last Strugglings of her departing Infant; till recollecting herself, and recruiting her Spirits a little, Dear *Oly*, said she, no Event hath ever before affected me in the Manner your Report hath; but there is one Thing you have been deficient in, and, either purposely or accidentally, have retained from my Knowledge; I mean that Event from whence
you

you say, you may still have Room to hope for Felicity.

Mrs. *Faulconer* had, with tolerable Patience, gone through all the other Parts of her Story; but the Sense of discovering her Courtship and Nuptials, the very tenderest of all Subjects, in her Opinion, and the Damage that might ensue to her dearest Husband, should the Secret ever reach the Ears of his Family, kept her long at Bay with her young Lady, before she could dare to divulge it; but her Lady plying her with the most pressing Instances, and seriously undertaking, that the Account she should give her, be it what it would, should be sacredly conserved in her own Breast, she was prevailed with to reveal her Marriage, the Departure of her Husband, and the Conditions they had obliged themselves to, before ever their Nuptials should arrive at Consummation.

Miss stood in Amaze, she said, at their Resolution, it being what, she believed, she should not have been able so inviolably to have maintained; nay, she even sympathized with Mrs. *Faulconer*, as she now called her, in every Pang she felt, both at the Recollection of her Husband, as
at

at present lost to her, and at the dark Reflections of the more than Possibility of her never meeting him again.

Mrs. *Faulconer* having no Mysteries now reserved from Miss, they began to recapitulate the past History by Sketches, and to converse thereon with all imaginable Freedom ; till at length Mrs. *Faulconer* told her, she was afraid she had been too unreserved in her Disclosure of her Affairs, lest, now Miss was apprized who she was, and especially as she was a married Woman, she should be scrupulous of retaining her longer in her Service ; though she could assure Miss, that having fully reduced herself to Humility, she should be as observant of her Orders, tractable to her Commands, and obey her with as much Chearfulness, as the most abjectly descended Person she could procure ; and the rather, because every new Engagement of herself, would be attended with fresh Reflections to her ; whereas those being now all over as to her present Service, she could imbibe the most extatic Delight, was she but satisfied of remaining with that Lady whom she first made it her Election to engage with, and whose placid Behaviour ever since,

since, had given her such an Interest in her, as Time itself could scarce efface.

Olly, said Miss, what you would seem to petition for, far be it from me to grant. The Adversity of your Fortune, only shews me what myself, and other young Ladies well descended, by the Turn of Fate, may be obliged to condescend to; though it is highly improbable, that one in a Thousand of us should so discreetly bear it as you do. As for my own Part, added she, I may account myself happy in not being so subject to the Caprice or Whim of a Parent, as many are, having an ample Provision of my own, independant of my Mamma's Pleasure, who, in all Probability, must, at her Death, augment my Store about eighteen hundred Pounds a Year more, besides her ready Money, and other Effects, which are considerable; but yet I will not totally exempt myself from the Lash of Providence, in Dependance upon my temporary Benefits; for I am still as liable as you was, to having them rendered useless to me, if not by a Divulsion from my own Hands; yet, by a Fever, or other numberless Accidents, to have my Senses so impaired, as to be incapable

capable of enjoying them; which, though not in Act, would yet in Effect, be the same Thing, as to their Utility to me.

For this Reason, added she, it is, that I cannot, in Honour, suffer a Person so well born, so genteely educated, and the Inheritrix of every valuable Quality, to remain any longer in the indignant Form of a Servant to me.

Miss observing Mrs. *Faulconer* to change Countenance at her last Words, and seemingly ready to faint in her Chair, clasping her Hand in her own; but I will make you another Proposal, added she. At this Mrs. *Faulconer* seeming to hearken, begg'd Leave to inform herself what that should be; when, just as Miss was about making it, the Dinner-bell ringing; My Mamma, said she, will now wait me in the Parlour, but I desire to have half an Hour's more Chat with you between Dinner and Tea Time, when you will please to meet me here again.

C H A P. XIII.

Mrs. Faulconer uncertain. Further Conference with Miss Gately. Her Liberality and Affection. Mrs. Faulconer's Gratitude. Lives elegantly. Melancholy at not hearing from her Husband. Death of Mrs. Gately. Handsome Bequest to Mrs. Faulconer. Letter from Mr. Faulconer. Miss Gately and Mrs. Faulconer go to London. Miss Dies. Her Will not to be found. Miss King claims all as nearest Relation.

MRS. Faulconer; about the Time appointed, took Care to be first at the Rendezvous, that she might not occasion her young Lady's waiting for her. She well knew what she had done, but was far from being capable of deciding what might prove the Consequences of it: As for losing her Place, it was the least Mischief she expected to happen from what had passed; nor could she say, whether she might gain a Character from Miss to another; but as her Fate in that Family, she thought, would not be long in determining (though she

even dreaded the Sight of her young Lady) yet she longed for nothing more than her Approach ; that what she should have to trust to, might meet with the speedier Decision.

She blamed herself over and over, for being so explicit in her Affairs to Miss, from whose means, though she had not the least Expectation of advancing them, yet she might fear their Depression, from her too great Latitude of Tongue to improper Objects.

Whilst Mrs. *Faulconer* was thus tormenting herself, from Probabilities, in came Miss, in a vast Flow of Spirits and Good Humour : So, Mrs. *Faulconer*, said she, pray sit down, my Dear, and let us have no Manner of Ceremony ; for that, of all things, is most painful to me.

Mrs. *Faulconer*, to avoid Offence, sat down ; when, Well ! said Miss, let me see, whereabouts left we off ? — Oh ! I was going to make you a Proposal, I think, when I was diverted from it by the Dinner-Bell. — I was so. — Well, then, my Dear, added she, what I would have told you is this, — observe me.

From

From the past State of your Affairs, I find you (though, in my Judgment, a Person whose Intimacy and Acquaintance I should hold in great Estimation) reduced to the lowest Ebb, as to Circumstances. These, you are aiming at mending, by a Service, of which you are as unworthy as of starving. Now I would, from the Ingenuity of your Answer, if possible, penetrate to the inmost Recesses of your Heart, what Opinion you have of me as a Friend, and constant Companion? Answer me this sincerely, and I shall proceed somewhat further with you.

Madam, said Mrs. *Faulconer*, though my Tongue was from this Instant to be deprived of the Faculty of Speech, a ready Judgment may be formed by you of my real Inclination, from the Dread I have but too palpably discovered, of the Unacceptableness of my Service to you, and the Reluctance I have shewn at the Thoughts of quitting your Family; which, if I am compelled to do, I must ingenuously profess myself void even of the Hope of any future Situation, so much to my own Approbation.

You are sensible, Madam, added she, that my Transactions in this Family, have been almost solely confined to yourself; which may serve to satisfy you, from what Motive my so intense Desire of remaining here arises; but that I may verbally testify the true Dictates of my Heart to you, the generous-Treatment I have all along met with from you, hath so captivated my every Faculty to your Pleasure, that, have I a sole Desire in Life (next to the Enjoyment of my dear Husband's Society) that bears away the Prize from all others, it is that of being ever present with you, in the Execution of your Commands.

Is this literally true? said Miss; and if you and I at present stood upon equal Terms, as Acquaintance only, could you prefer my Society, or at least esteem it equal, to the rest of your Intimates? I must, in such Case, prefer it to all that I have ever as yet had the Happiness to call my Friends, I do assure you, Madam, said Mrs. *Faulconer*.

I shall trace this Matter no further, Mrs. *Faulconer*, said Miss; I am content; and to satisfy you that I am no ways your Debtor,

Debtor, I do assure you, my Dear, your constant Society with me as my Friend, my Companion, my Intimate, nay, my very Self too, will to me, compensate for the Loss of all other Acquaintance ; and now know, that my seeming Rejection of you from my Service was, that I might receive you next my Heart for ever.

I purpose to make you a Present of Fifty Pounds a Year certain, for little Female Requisites, and must enjoin you to apprize me of its Deficiency, for the Purposes I design it to, so soon as that shall happen, annually : And (then putting her Hand into her Bosom, and producing a Fifty Pound Note) this, said she, I present you with, by way of Anticipation.

There is one Thing more, added Miss, that I must beg of you, my Dear, as a Favour ; which is, that between us two, either before Company, or in private, no Distinction, Submission, or Deference, may be offered at, or made, on either Side ; for that will prove destructive of the good Harmony I would wish to subsist between us ; but as I hereby proclaim the Welcome of every Freedom your good Sense will ever claim with me ; so

I hope my Prudence will restrain me from all such as shall, in any Degree, prove burdensome to you ; if not, be sure inform me of them. Then rising, and saluting her, My dearest Friend, said she, I hereby adopt you my Sister, my second Self, and let one Heart and Mind for ever reign in us.

Mrs. *Faulconer*, by this Time, was almost past all Sense of the Blessings that were prostrating themselves at her Feet, being almost overwhelmed by their Profusion ; but the first Moment that she could rise from her Seat, it was but that she might fall again at the Knees of her gentle Benefactress, which she embraced with such rapturous Expressions of her Gratitude, as being greedily imbibed by Miss, cemented such a Union and Affection between them, as neither Time or Accident could destroy.

Mrs. *Gately*, having ever esteemed Mrs. *Faulconer* a most agreeable Servant and Companion for her Daughter, was the more pleased at this nearer Intimacy between them ; and now, another Servant was sought out for, to wait upon the two young Ladies, who from that Time forward, had equal Respect from,
and

and Command over, the whole inferior Family ; and Mrs. *Faulconer* found her Affairs so mended, that could she but have had an Opportunity of sending her Husband Notice of it, she would have been compleatly happy. What gave her the most Concern was, that as he had left her under the Uneasiness he had conceived, for her living in Servitude till his Return to her ; and having, in his last, informed her of his sailing, and that she could not expect to hear again from him till he arrived at the *Cape*, she could have no Opportunity of notifying her good Fortune to him, for many Months yet.

No two young Creatures ever lived more happily, or more confided in each other, than these two young Ladies: They had Miss's Coach at Command, and visited together throughout the whole adjacent Country ; nor could any thing have abated the Felicity Mrs. *Faulconer* might have enjoyed, could she but have heard from her Husband, or by any means been ascertained of his being living ; but now two full Years having passed, without the least Account of him, or Line from him, she began to fall under

176 *The* MOTHER-IN-LAW ; or,
such a Melancholy, as all the Delights
she enjoyed could not divert her from.

Though nothing is more interwoven
in our very Natures, yet nothing is more
unreasonable, than in every uncertain Oc-
currence, to turn the dark Side of the
Page towards us ; and for want of Light
to distinguish the Truth of its Contents,
to form to ourselves the most terrifying
and shocking Apprehensions of them.

Mrs. *Faulconer*, under her present Cir-
cumstances, considered not the Distance
her Husband must be from her ; the
Scarcity of Returns from thence ; the
various Accidents any Token from him
must be liable to, from the Danger of
the Seas, Wind, Weather, or Neglect of
the Person intrusted with it ; nor would
she bring any other Preventions to ac-
count in her Reckoning, save the Death
of her dear Husband ; and this had now
wrought upon her almost to a Degree of
Desperation ; insomuch, that, scarce ever
long preserving a dry Eye, and her
Friend, Miss *Gately*, sympathizing in her
Wailings, a more deplorable State was
scarce to be met with, than these young
Ladies were reduced to.

It

It was about the latter end of the third Year of Mrs. *Faulconer's* Residence at Mrs. *Gately's*, that the old Lady being taken very ill, after labouring under a Decay of Nature, and the Complication of several Distempers for a few Months, died ; and in Token of the great Regard she had for Mrs. *Faulconer*, as a most agreeable Companion for her Daughter, she gave her by her Will, a Legacy of Five Hundred Pounds ; and also charged her Estate in her Daughter's Hands, to whom she devised all the Residue, with the yearly Payment of One Hundred Pounds to Mrs. *Faulconer*, so long as she should continue to remain with her Daughter.

Miss *Gately*, after she had buried her Mamma, still lived in the same House, it being her own, and maintained the same Sort of Housekeeping, and Family ; but still, Mrs. *Faulconer's* Depression so affected her, that an Air of Melancholy overspread all their Grandeur and Affluence, till about two Years after the old Lady's Death, a Letter arrived to Mrs. *Faulconer* from her Husband, which creating an entire new Face in the Family,

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mily, the Ladies reverted to their accustomed Gaiety. — It ran in the following Words.

Mr. *Hervey Faulconer*, to Mrs. *Olympia Isaacson*.

‘ IF ever these few Lines (after three
‘ of my Letters as yet unanswered)
‘ should reach the Hand of my dear
‘ Wife, let her believe, that the sincerest
‘ Addresses of the Soul of her loving
‘ Husband accompanies them.

‘ My Uncertainty of your Well-being,
‘ my Love, palls every Satisfaction that
‘ I might otherwise enjoy here, from the
‘ Company I am in, and the Agreeable-
‘ nefs of Things about me; for, with
‘ what Pleasure can I accept a Donation
‘ of the whole World’s Empire, whilst
‘ my own Heart is conscious of thy Ser-
‘ vitude?

‘ I find there is Money to be collected
‘ here, and every additional Penny to
‘ my Store, adds a Revival to my Hop’s
‘ of one Day laying it at the Feet of my
‘ beloved *Olympia*; but then, my Dear,
‘ that Day seems to be Ages distant
‘ from me, and sinks me into the Abyss
‘ of Despair again.

‘ I

‘ I have, by Captain S——t, sent you
‘ some few of this Country Trifles, as
‘ also somewhat for your own Wear;
‘ and have entrusted him with Effects,
‘ which I hope will turn out some few
‘ Hundred Pounds for you, when sold;
‘ and if you, my lovely *Olympia*, can accord
‘ to my Desire, it will be to throw your-
‘ self out of Service; and, tho’ meanly,
‘ subsist yourself comfortably, upon what
‘ the Captain will pay you, till, by the
‘ Return of Shipping, I shall make you
‘ a fresh Remittance; which, if I live
‘ and prosper, I purpose to increase, an-
‘ nually, for your Support.

‘ I must intreat you to answer this by
‘ the next Ships to these Parts, together
‘ with my three former, or my Fears
‘ will prompt me to suspect you dead,
‘ which must infallibly send me after
‘ you: For this World (no longer than
‘ I can subsist upon the Hopes of a Re-
‘ union with my lovely *Olympia*) can
‘ prove a Habitation, for her

‘ *Most Loving, and*

‘ *Affectionate Husband,*

‘ H. FAULCONER.’

The

The above Letter, having dissipated every Cloud that hovered over the two Ladies Brows; after Miss *Gately* had gratulated her Friend upon the News, they set out together for *London*, to find out the Captain; from whose Knowledge of Mr. *Faulconer*, and the Account that he gave her of him, and the flourishing Condition he had left him in, both beloved and respected, not only by the Factory, but the whole Country, his Lady imbibed a ten-fold Satisfaction, to what even his own Letter had given her: For she had infinite Questions to be asked relative to him, from the Answers to which, she could almost imagine herself to be conversing with her Husband; insomuch, that whenever she could gain a Minute with the Captain, it even seemed Death to part with him again.

They waited in Town, till the Captain had turned the Effects he was charged with into Money; for which, he paid Mrs. *Faulconer* about Seven Hundred Pounds. She also gained the best Information how to transmit him an Answer to his Letter, and who to apply to for carrying it; so that now, being pretty perfect how she might behave on the
like

like Occasion, at any future Opportunity, the Ladies had fixed the Time of their Return for the Country, and only waited the Arrival of some Suits of Cloaths, and Things they had bespoke, to take with them upon their Journey ; when Miss *Gately* being taken ill, her Physician concluded it would be the Small Pox, which so terrified her, from an Opinion she had ever had, that if that Distemper once seized her, she should not survive it, that her Dejection upon the Occasion, possibly contributed more to her Miscarriage under it, than the bare Distemper itself did : For upon its first Appearance, the Doctor declared it of a most friendly Sort, and made little Doubt of her soon being abroad again ; but Miss, from her own Prejudice to the Disorder, had far different Notions of it, which caused her soon after she was taken, to send for a Lawyer to make her Will ; and on the ninth Day, the Distemper taking an unusual Turn, she grew light-headed, in which Delirium she remained, till the third Day after, when she died, to the inexpressible Grief of her Friend and Companion Mrs. *Faulconer*, who now began to issue forth abundant Praises to
Providence,

Providence, for that it had made so reasonable a Provision for her, just at a Time when it was pleased to remove her munificent Benefactress from her; with the Loss of whom, all further Expectations from that Quarter, must entirely cease also.

Notwithstanding the Length of Time Mrs. *Faulconer* had lived with Miss *Gate-ly*, she could not recollect any one Relation she had ever heard her mention, either by her Father's or her Mother's Side, save a young Woman who kept a Sort of Milliner's Shop, and wrought Plain-work, at *Worcester*, and who, about once a Quarter, used to walk over to Mrs. *Gate-ly*'s, to bring what new-pattern'd Things she had picked up since her last Visit, and generally sold two or three Pounds Worth of Goods to Miss and her Mother; not so much from the real Want they were in of them, as merely to encourage the sober industrious Girl, as they called her, and to put a few Shillings into her Pocket.

Mrs. *Faulconer*, remembering that they always called her Cousin, though the Difference in their Circumstances warranted

ranted her to make use of no more familiar Dialect to either of them, than of Madam ; and never, as I said before, having heard of any other of their Relations, as it was necessary that some of Miss's Kindred should direct her Funeral, search after her Will, and transact the Concerns she had left behind her, she wrote to this Milliner, whose Name was *King*, to inform her of her Kinswoman's Death, and to desire her, if not Miss's nearest of kin herself, that she would send up whoever was so, to take care of her and her Effects.

Mrs. *Faulconer*, fearing it might be some Days before she should hear from Miss *King*, and perhaps more, before she could see her ; that nothing of Indecency might be imputed to either of them, gave Orders for all things preparatory to the young Lady's Funeral, though she resolved not to proceed to her Interment, till some Advice should arrive from the Country, which she impatiently waited for.

In as short Time as such an Affair could well be dispatched, Miss *King* appeared, and declared herself not only the nearest, but the only Relation
of

of the Deceased ; that her Father and Mother had been some Years dead ; that she had no Brother, nor any Sister ; neither remembered she to have heard, from any Tradition in the Family, of any other Relation they had, save herself ; so that Mrs. *Faulconer* gave her Joy of the noble Estate that was fallen to her ; and she gave Orders for the Conveyance of the Corpse to the Family Vault in *Worcestershire*, purposing to send down two of her late Cousin's Servants, to attend the Remains of their late Lady to the Ground.

Mrs. *Gately's* own Maid assured Miss *King* that her Lady had made a Will, as also Mrs. *Faulconer* did ; but upon the most exact Scrutiny they could both make into the Deceased's Effects, not an Escrip that way tending, was to be found : so that judging it must have been destroyed, Miss *King*, as Heir at Law, and next of Kin to the Deceased, looked upon herself as the sole Mistress of all.

Miss *King* was a very aimable young Lady, and as well formed for making a compleat Gentlewoman as most were ; but for want of a polite Education, shone inferior

inferior to many, of far less promising Aspect; but what above all things rendered her agreeable was, an innate Diffidence, and a modest Inclination, for rendering herself acceptable to others; which testified itself through the whole Course of her Actions: so that she had, in the short Consociation they had in *London*, before the Funeral, engaged the Affections of Mrs *Faulconer* prodigiously.

It was one of the most elegant Funerals Miss *King* had ordered for her Kinswoman, that could well be prepared; the Pomp of which, displaying itself in the Street, for a considerable Time before it was moving, had drawn about the Door of their Lodging a vast Concourse of People, and amongst the rest, the Gentleman who had made Miss *Gately's* Will. This Gentleman, observing the Funeral Ceremonies to be prepared for some one, in the very House he had so lately attended a Lady that was ill, he soon informed himself of the Death of his Client, from one of the Undertaker's Servants; whereupon, recollecting that he might be of Use to somebody there, he was going to enquire for one of the Deceased's Family; but
the

the Corpse just then approaching, and diverting him from it, at that improper Time, he determined to do it the next Day, as then the Confusion would be somewhat appeased.

C H A P. XIV.

Mr. Dennis brings Miss Gately's Will. Leaves Miss King a Legacy. All the rest to Mrs. Faulconer. Dennis plays the Lawyer. Reproved by Mrs. Faulconer. Miss King rejects Dennis. Her Compliment to Mrs. Faulconer. Letter of her good Fortune to Mr. Faulconer. Invites him to partake of it.

MISS King's Family, as it was now called, being somewhat composed after the Fatigue of the Funeral; the very next Day, in the Afternoon, Mr. Dennis (the Gentleman who had made Miss Gately's Will being so called) sent in his Name to the Ladies as they were drinking Tea, together with his Request of the Favour of Admittance to them.

They admired what he should want with them; for Mrs. Faulconer assured Miss, that he could have no Demand upon

upon her for his Trouble about the Will, for that she herself, by Miss *Gately's* Order, had paid him two Guineas for it; so that what his present Business should be, she could not imagine; but thought it proper to enquire if he knew what was become of it.

Madam, said Miss *King*, I can see no such great Reason for the Surprize you seem to be under, I must confess.— This Gentleman, it is said, made my Cousin's Will; by which he must have been able to judge of her Worth, in a good measure; now, possibly, she might leave her Affairs so, as that he may imagine you, who was so near to her Person, to have a large Share of them; for I presume, he knows not your Name; and my Life for yours, he is now come to put in his Claim to you, lest (as Delay you know is dangerous) he should chance to be too late.

Well! well! said Mrs. *Faulconer*, whatever his Business is, we must admit him; that is but a necessary Piece of Respect, till we hear what he has to offer.

Mr. *Dennis* being introduced, after the usual consolatory Compliments, upon the Death of the young Lady he had
the

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the Honour of being called too ; Ladies, said he, I presume you are both Relations of the Deceased, and therefore I make bold to wait upon you, to know whether either of you Ladies is named *Olympia Faulconer* ? or whether you can any ways direct me how to find that Lady ? since to her it is that I am to deliver the deceased Lady's Will, by her own Direction to me, and to none other Person, she being made Executrix thereof.

The two Ladies stared at each other, and then at the Gentleman, not knowing what to make of this ; but as her Name was enquired after, Mrs. *Faulconer* replied, that she was the Person he had named. I give you abundant Joy upon the Occasion, Madam, said Mr. *Dennis* ; for, from the young Lady's own Mouth I have it, that the Estate this Paper presents you with (taking the Will from his Pocket, and holding it forth in his Hand) is of the full annual Value of Seven Thousand Pounds.

It would have been difficult for a By-stander, by Sight only, to have determined to which of the two Ladies this princely Donation had been made ; for
though

though Disappointment shadowed over Miss *King's* Face, with a Mist of Vexation, Mrs. *Faulconer's* true Countenance was no less obfuscated by the Vapours of a thoughtful Concern. However, as she, from what had hitherto appeared, seemed to be most interested in the Affair, she desired Mr. *Dennis* would be so good as to read the Will over to them.

It thereby appeared, that Miss had left to a poor Woman in the Country, whom she had usually called Nurse, the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds; to all her Servants thorough Mourning, and at the Rate of Ten Pounds by the Year to each of them, according to the Number of Years they had severally lived in her own, and her Mother's Service.

Her next Bequest was to her Kinswoman, Mrs. *Lydia King*, the Lady then present, to whom she gave One Thousand Pounds, and four small Houses in the City of *Worcester*, which her Father had heretofore purchased of Miss *King's* Father, and these were to her and her Heirs.

As to all the Residue of her Real and Personal Estate, in Consideration of the
Same-

Sameness of Soul subsisting between herself, and her most valuable Friend, Mrs. *Olympia Faulconer*, she gave and devised the same, and every Particle thereof, to the said *Olympia Faulconer*, and her Assigns, for ever, whom she constituted sole Executrix of her Will.

The Will being finished, both the Ladies (equally affected as it seemed) fell to crying for a considerable Space, whilst Mr. *Dennis* was obliged to partake of the melancholy Scene, before he could draw forth a Word from either of them, relative to the Cause of their Sorrow; though he employed every winning Art in his Power for withdrawing them from a too serious Adhesion to their Grief. At length Miss *King*, with a Sigh, replied, You, Sir, or any one else in my Case, would think it more than a little hard upon you, to have but one Relation in the World, and her a rich one too, and at her Decease to see all the Grift pass by one's own Mill, to that of a meer Stranger.

It must needs be a Heart-breaking Affliction to me, Sir, added she, to see all that my Family have for this Age past been amassing, at one Dash of a thought-

thoughtless Girl's Pen, cast into another Channel, instantly ; when I alone am the sole legal Heir to it all.

The Tears recovering their Force again, Miss *King* was obliged to be silent ; whilst Mrs. *Faulconer*, to his questioning the Cause of her weeping, who had fallen upon so fine an Estate, replied, that true it was, she had Reasons for rejoicing at the Benefit, beyond what either himself or Miss *King* could conceive ; in that she had thereby attained to the very Thing, wherein she had placed the Summit of all earthly Felicity ; but yet, she said, she could not, though to her own Gain, behold the Loss of another, with dry Eyes ; and especially, where it was not in her Power to minister Relief.

Not in your Power, Madam ? said Mr. *Dennis* ; yes, surely it is. If ever it was in the deceased Lady's Power to have done more for Miss *King* than she has done, you, now standing in her Shoes, may supply that Defect to her, which you yourself would seem to condemn your Friend for.

Alas ! Sir, said Mrs. *Faulconer*, could I but be so happy as to be capable of that,

that, my Tears would but flow for the Excess of Joy I should abound with, as the Instrument of that Lady's Happiness, whom, next to her departed Kinswoman, I must esteem for her good and valuable Qualities, inferior to no one Lady whom I ever conversed with.

I am astonished at your offering to talk thus, said Mr. *Dennis*. Hath not every one Power to dispose of his own Property? Is any Thing freer than Gift? Or can it be more solemnly transferred than by Will? Have you not now the Property in those Effects and Estate, that have thus solemnly been consigned to you? And may you not, therefore, dispose of a Part, or the Whole of them, with as much Right to her, as ever the deceased Lady (whilst they were hers) could to you?

Bless me! Sir, said Mrs. *Faulconer*, why all this Waste of Words to prove what would, its true, be incontestable, if Matters on my Side were otherwise circumstanced than they are; but in the Situation I find myself, I am so far from being able to alienate, that, in Truth, I can have no other Property than Possession of them. The Use, the Benefit, indeed,

indeed, I may have ; but the Right is in my Husband, whom I durst not injure, but by his own Consent ; and therefore, no Power rests in me for the Display of my own Inclination, which, at least, prompts me to a Division of the Estate with this Lady, being ashamed to plume myself on the Spoils so naturally due to her, as the sole subsisting Heir of the Family they descend from.

Miss *King* seeming under an Excess of Dispiritedness, on account of the Loss she must sustain, Mr. *Dennis* asked Mrs. *Faulconer* where her Husband was, that he might be treated with to compassionate the Lady's Circumstances, which to him appeared very hard, and worthy of his Consideration.

Mrs. *Faulconer* replied, that her Spouse was in *India*, and that Returns were very tedious from thence. Then, Madam, said Mr. *Dennis*, I presume there may be no Occasion for the Observance of such Niceties as if he was upon the Spot with you ; for whatever you shall please to deliver him the Possession of, as left you by a Friend in his Absence, will be equally satisfactory to him, (who will know no more of the Matter than you

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shall see fit to acquaint him with) though it should be but a Moiety of the Estate devised to you, as if it was the Whole of it.

I must acknowledge, Sir, said Mrs. *Faulconer*, that the Method you have pointed out to me, might answer the Purpose of Miss *King* well enough, and quiet her Conscience in the Possession; but what Equivalent can you propose to me for the perpetual Twinges of my own, who shall have consented to a Fraud that must render me, in my own Mind, for ever unworthy of my Husband's Love, and of the Regard of Heaven too? Your Invention I may allow to be ready and subtile, without attributing a Grain of Wisdom to it: Now Actions not guided by Wisdom, are foolish Acts, and the Perpetrators of them, Fools. What Name then, may we impose upon the Devisors of them? I will not say that you are a Man of no Judgment for this Advice, because the World may condemn my Position; but that if your Sentiments infer any Judgment, it is carnal, knavish, and devilish, I dare pronounce, in the Face of the whole World, and of which, I myself will

will be the last Person in it to make the Experiment.

What I can justly do for the Assistance of this Lady, it shall be my Business to propose to her, that if she believes my House, my Servants, my Table, and my Company, can be agreeable to her, the same Benefit that I myself, in my Distresses, received from her deceased Kinswoman, shall she receive from me; for so long as it shall be acceptable to her, without the least Expence to her, which is all that I can esteem myself at Liberty to do for her, without the Concurrence of my Husband; and this I will promise her, added she, that upon his Return, my Approbation shall accompany whatsoever further Acts his Inclination shall excite him to perform in her Favour; but know, Sir, that you have not that simple Woman in me to deal with, that can be biassed not to submit, even the most intimate Gratification of my own, to the Direction and Guidance of my Husband; much less shall it ever be said of me, that I contributed to, or even connived at, the least Imposition upon him.

Mrs. *Faulconer* was so irritated in her Mind against Mr. *Dennis*, for the Baseness of his Sentiments, that, waiting a while for his Removal, without observing him ready to take Leave; Sir, said she, the ready Adjustment of your Sentiments to Advantage, gives me Room to suspect your Visit to us at this Time was not without the same View; for which Reason, as I have wasted some of your Time here, that it may not be wholly uncompensated for, be pleased to accept of this Acknowledgment, and assure yourself, that if ever my Spirit and Virtue should be reduced to the Entertainment of a dirty Job, you may probably receive a Visit from me; then presenting him with a Couple of Guineas, he took Leave, under no slight Appearance of Concern at what had happened.

No sooner was his Back turned, than Madam, said Miss *King*, I am greatly indebted to you for the Transactions of this Day. As how? Madam, said Mrs. *Faulconer*; if I have made you the only Offer I with Justice could, I shall be rather obliged to you for its Acceptance, and your Society; nay, it will be but an equitable Return that I already owe
to

to the Family, which I would repay to you as the Survivor of it.

Pardon me, Madam, said Miss *King*, I intend not by what I mentioned, the generous Offer you made me ; but, Madam, added she, I must admit myself your Debtor, for the satisfactory Information you have furnished my Mind with. It is amazing, that though Truth is the most conspicuous Thing in all Nature, nor less eligible than a dvantageous ; yet few there are that behol'd it, till it is delineated to them by another Hand. This shews how far every one is naturally prejudiced in his own Affairs, even in Contradiction to his rational Faculties, so far as to suppress the Exertion of them, where the Event may turn out disfavoured were they exercised as they ought to be.

I must own, Madam, added she, I received more Benefit during the short Moment of your Argument with Mr. *Dennis*, than ever I did in my Life from the longest and most elaborate Sermon. There is somewhat in the personal Representation of Facts so striking, that the Energy of the same, upon Relation, is flat and insipid for want of it. For

here the Eye, as well as the Ear, transmits the Idea to the Heart of the Auditor. Your Sentiments in that Affair, added she, were so apparently just and right, that though, in Opposition to my own Interest, no less than to your unrestrained Inclination, I could not but condemn my Advocate proportionably to the Reverence your Dictates demanded from me.

Miss *King* being now well assured, that the last Hope she had of Advancement in her Fortune, was arrived to the Amount of the above Thousand Pounds, and about thirty-six Pounds a Year in old Houses, with great Chearfulness accepted Mrs. *Faulconer's* Invitation; so that little concerning herself about her Shop, which she had left with, perhaps, Forty Pounds Stock in it, to the Care of a Neighbour's Daughter; after Mrs. *Faulconer* and she had stayed about a Fortnight in Town, to provide themselves with suitable Mourning, they both returned to the late Mrs. *Gateley's* Seat, now Mrs. *Faulconer's*; but before they quitted *London*, Mrs. *Faulconer* sent the following Letter to her Husband in Answer to his last.

Mrs.

Mrs. *Olympia Faulconer*, to Mr. *Hervey Faulconer*.

‘ **Y**OUR Favour, my Dear, by Cap-
‘ tain *Stuart*, I was blessed with
‘ at a Time when I was reduced to the
‘ very Depth of Despair ; for neither of
‘ your former having reached me, what
‘ less could I conceive, after five Years
‘ Absence from me, than that my ever
‘ dear Mr. *Faulconer* was no more?
‘ Most infelicitous Words! but ever
‘ predominant in the Thoughts of your
‘ loving Wife.

‘ I hope this Testimony of the Sin-
‘ cerity of my Affection, will not share
‘ the Fate of your former Letters to
‘ me ; for whilst we can communicate
‘ our Thoughts to each other now-and-
‘ then, methinks Life is worthy our Re-
‘ tention ; but in the Dearth of our Ad-
‘ vices, Death seems preferable to the
‘ Anxieties I endure.

‘ It seems surprising to me, my Love,
‘ why Men should take such Pains, run
‘ such Hazards, traverse such Oceans,
‘ and fix themselves at such Distances
‘ from their native Countries, in quest

‘ of Gold and Treasure, when I am able
 ‘ to prove, to a Demonstration, that
 ‘ Fortunes are to be made at home, not
 ‘ only with less Difficulty to the Acquirer,
 ‘ but in far less Time, and with but a
 ‘ Trifle of Application.

‘ I fear, lest should I proceed much
 ‘ further without Explanation, my Love
 ‘ should suspect me of Frenzy ; so that
 ‘ craving your Patience for a few Mi-
 ‘ nutes, I shall relate an Event, which I
 ‘ enjoy the more, not only for that I
 ‘ hope soon for my Husband to partake
 ‘ in it ; but for that it will abate the
 ‘ Anxiety he has long laboured with re-
 ‘ lative to my Condition.

‘ Bless me ! my Dear, what an Alte-
 ‘ ration has a few Years made in me ?
 ‘ what Scenes of Life have I seen ? what
 ‘ Turns of Fortune have I partaken of ?
 ‘ In my earlier Life, I was trained up to
 ‘ vast Expectations ; at the Approach of
 ‘ Womanhood, I was abandoned by all
 ‘ the World but thee, my Dear, and
 ‘ compelled to resort to a Service ; and
 ‘ now, am I indicting this as Lady of
 ‘ that Family, wherein I received my first
 ‘ Initiation to Subjection ; a Change as
 ‘ surprizing, as sudden, and the more
 ‘ so

‘ so, as I am now maintaining the sole
‘ Heir of that House, on which I so
‘ lately depended for my Bread.

‘ The Case, my dear Life, is this :
‘ I had scarce served my young Lady
‘ a Quarter of a Year, before she re-
‘ ceived me so far into Favour, as to
‘ make me her Companion, with a hand-
‘ some annual Allowance for my Pocket,
‘ and a Maid to wait upon me. Her
‘ Mother, old Mrs. *Gately*, then dying,
‘ left me both a handsome Legacy, and
‘ an Annuity of One Hundred Pounds
‘ a Year, during my Continuance with
‘ her Daughter. Just after the Receipt of
‘ your Letter, Miss *Gately* and I came to
‘ Town, to transact the Affair you had
‘ wrote to me about, where the dear
‘ young Lady falling ill of the Small-Pox,
‘ died, and by her Will has made me
‘ the sole Inheritrix of both her Mother’s
‘ and her own Estates, save a few trifling
‘ Legacies ; and her Heir at Law is now
‘ with me, my Companion, and De-
‘ pendant, in the very House I served
‘ her Kinswoman in.

‘ This, my Life, being the State
‘ of my Case, tell me if I have falsified
‘ in my Allegation, that Fortunes are

‘ no where sooner to be raised than in
 ‘ *England?* Why should my dear Hus-
 ‘ band then drill on his precious Mo-
 ‘ ments on a foreign Shore, in the midst
 ‘ of a Land of Strangers, when his long-
 ‘ ing Wife waits only to vest him in the
 ‘ Enjoyment of above Seven Thousand
 ‘ Pounds a Year, landed Estate, besides
 ‘ more ready Money than ever we may
 ‘ employ whilst we live?

‘ I must now return my dear Mr.
 ‘ *Faulconer* my Thanks for his Kind-
 ‘ ness to me. The China Toys are ex-
 ‘ quisitely beautiful ; the Chintz above
 ‘ measure admired by every Eye that has
 ‘ seen it ; and the Captain has paid me
 ‘ Seven Hundred Thirty-four Pounds
 ‘ and Eight-pence for the Goods not
 ‘ specifically to be delivered to me ; but
 ‘ my Dear observes, by the above Con-
 ‘ tents, that the sole remaining acceptable
 ‘ Present that this World can afford me,
 ‘ will be his own Person, to the Arms
 ‘ of his

‘ *Most truly loving,*

‘ *And longing Wife,*

‘ OLYMPIA FAULCONER.’

C H A P.

C H A P. XV.

*Mrs. Faulconer visits Mrs. Roberts.
Dissertation upon Accidents and Pro-
vidence. Account of Mrs. Isaacson.
Her deplorable Condition.*

AT the Ladies Return into the Country, they were visited by the whole Circle of Mrs. *Gately's* Acquaintance ; after the Run of which was over, having returned the Compliment, they set out for a few Days to Mrs. *Roberts's* Seat, who not having yet heard of Miss *Gately's* Death, was surprized at the Sight of her Cousin with a Stranger, both in deep Mourning ; so that mere Curiosity prompted Mrs. *Roberts*, before even the due Ceremonials of their Reception had passed, to take her Kinswoman aside, and to demand, for what Friend it could be, that she appeared so deep in Mourning ?

Mrs *Faulconer* replied, that it was for her truest and best of Friends, Miss *Gately* ; and what added to her Concern for her was, that her Death was owing to herself ; and then she related to her
the

204 *The MOTHER-IN-LAW; or,*
the Occasion of their Journey to *London*,
and how she caught her Death there.

I am heartily sorry for you, Cousin, said Mrs. *Roberts*; for though the Respect she had for you must have induced her to leave you a Legacy, yet nothing of that Sort can compensate for the Loss of so true a Friend, who, as she had it in her Power, was ever ready and willing to be contributing something to your better Accommodation: But come, I hope she has at least left you where-withal to prevent your Return to Service again; for the Hardship of that would sit the more heavily upon you, for the interposing Enjoyment of your Freedom so long.

Alas! Cousin, said Mrs. *Faulconer*, that dear Lady's Affection for me ceased not with her latest Breath; but has survived her, even beyond Imagination; for would you believe, that the young Lady who arrived with me, is the sole Heiress of Mrs. *Gately's* whole Family? — And so, said Mrs. *Roberts*, Miss *Gately* recommended you to her, and she has continued you in the same Situation as you before was with Miss herself. — I understand you, added she, and heartily wish

wish you may find as sincere a Friend in her.

Dear Cousin! said Mrs. *Faulconer*, your Fancy out-runs the Fact; for this young Lady is now under the same Obligation to me, that I, heretofore, was to Miss *Gately*; that dear Creature having, by her Will, made me Mistress of all that she possessed, save to the Value of about Two Thousand Pounds, that she has given away in Legacies.

Mrs. *Roberts*, embracing her, wished her abundance of Joy, upon the Arrival of such singular good Fortune to her. Why, my Dear, said she, notwithstanding your poor Father's Foibles, it is plain thou wert born to be lucky. Surely, it was the merest Accident in Life, that threw you into Mrs. *Gately*'s Family: You might have lived in a Million of Places, before one had turned out so happily.

I know not what others may think of it, said Mrs. *Faulconer*, but I can conceive no Accident at all in the Affair; for, upon laying all Circumstances together since the Event has come to pass, I am fully persuaded, that what the World calls Accident and Chance, both of Good
and

206 *The MOTHER-IN-LAW; or,*
and Evil, affecting Mankind in this
World, lies wholly in their own Power
and Choice.

Fy! fy! my Dear, said Mrs. *Roberts*,
you act imprudently. If upon the Re-
ceipt of such immense good Fortune,
you presume to ascribe it to your own
Merits, solely; for tho', indeed, every
one succeeds not so well in Life, yet the
Good and Bad, for the most Part, share
this World's Benefits equally, as well as
its Discommodities. The Thing was
therefore mere Chance, added she, that
has thus enriched you. Miss *Gately*
took a Fancy to you; and what more
natural than to do the best she could for
you. We see it every Day done, con-
tinued she, that great Estates are given
from the next Heirs, upon many private
Considerations, and not because the Re-
ceiver out-weighs all others in Matter of
absolute Merit.

Cousin, said Mrs. *Faulconer*, I need
not tell you that I have been a great
Reader; nor has my Study been em-
ployed for an inconsiderable Time, in
Affairs of Religion, wherein the Holy
Scriptures have occupied me more, per-
haps, than you may imagine. My first
Endeavour

Endeavour hath been to discover the Authenticity of them ; from thence I proceeded to their Matter ; and next, to their Utility. Having fully satisfied myself in these, added she, I am now determined, as to the Necessity incumbent upon us, to apply them to our several Occasions : For if these are Directions for our Conduct, this also must be to some special Purpose. Now these same Scriptures assure us of the Acceptableness of a certain Way of pursuing their Directions, to our Maker, insomuch that it has appropriated Rewards to it ; and of the Disagreeableness of neglecting their Directions, for that Punishments are annexed to that too.

If, therefore, the Scriptures are to be the Rule of our Actions, they are to be the Rule of all our Actions, without Reserve ; nor are we to presume, but the Promises annexed to the Performance, are as certainly to be performed, as the Punishments threatened are to be executed. If *David* shall tell me, that no good Thing shall be wanting to them that fear God ; if he shall tell me, that the Lord loveth the Righteous ; and of him that fears God, that his Soul shall dwell

dwell at Ease, and his Seed shall inherit the Earth ; and if others of the old Prophets, and later Evangelists, shall abound with Remunerations from Heaven, both here and hereafter, for our pious and obedient Conduct here, shall we rather look upon these Things as idle Tales, and Words of Course, than Things actually due, and to be received by us ? No, let the Person living in Contradiction to the holy *David*, produce to me the righteous Man that ever was forsaken, or whose Seed (whilst under his Charge and Direction, for this must be supposed) begged their Bread.

My Dear, said Mrs. *Roberts*, your Zeal seems to hurry you too far upon this Subject. I remember *Solomon*, I think it was, who tells us from very good Authority, that all Things happen alike to all ; that the holy Person, and the Sinner, fare equally : And a far greater than he, tells us, that the Rain is sent both upon the Just and Unjust ; how then is the Life of the Righteous distinguished from that of the iniquitous Person ?

I must allow you, Madam, said Mrs. *Faulconer*, that the common Benefits of
Heaven

Heaven descend, without Distinction, upon all ; and Reason good they should do so, since the Cessation of Miracles amongst us ; though we may remember when it was otherwise, at the Pleasure of the Creator, when Darkness seized upon one Part of the same Country, whilst the Remainder enjoyed its usual Sunshine : Now, what makes Mankind grossly to mistake in this Matter is, their judging one of another, by their outward Appearances ; whereas, the Soul alone, being the true Man, many a foul one lurks under a seemingly sanctified Outside ; as many a pure one does, under a more seemingly careless Covering : so that unless we could as minutely discern the inward Motions of the Soul, as we can the external Actions of the Body, we can never strike a just Balance between it and Heaven. Every one, therefore, can alone judge of himself ; nor that, without the precisest Punctuality, by reason of that Self-prejudice each one views his own Deeds with ; but yet, from the Scriptures, I am able to collect thus much, that he that trusts in, relies upon, and inscrupulously loves, fears, and obeys the Lord, preferably to any
Invitation

Invitation of the World whatsoever, shalt never want those promised good Things I have mentioned ; nor can any know the Performance of this, but those who feel it ; or any feel, but those who enjoy it, too palpably to be deceived.

Can you imagine, Madam, added Mrs. *Faulconer*, that my Ejection from my Father's Family ; my Loss of all by his Death ; the improbable Chance I once stood of my ever going to Service ; the more than improbable Favour I found at my first Effort that Way ; with the almost Impossibility that ever I should have been so benefited by it, as in five Years Time to have become Mistress of the many Thousands I am now worth ; can you, I say, conceive, that this Event hath proceeded Step by Step to a Conclusion, over so many apparent Obstacles, without the Guidance of some superintending Power in my Favour ? Now, this I am the readier to think was in my Favour, and intended as a Blessing to me, because, that ever since I have established my Notions of Religion, (having discovered abundant Reason for so doing) I have so absolutely devoted my whole Will and Affections to my Creator's

tor's Service, that I have made no Dispute of engaging in whatever he seemed to have called me to, or of acting whatever Part he had designed me ; and that, not in a perfunctory Manner, but with my whole Soul, and the united Vigour of every Faculty ; still placing my whole Confidence in him, for such Assistance in all my Undertakings as might but the more forward me in his Service: Nay, I am not without my Hopes, that I shall behave under this ample Estate that has fallen to me, not only in a prudent, but in a pious Manner, in every Degree worthy of a Christian Woman ; and my Reason is this, because I have long, not only made Content a Part of my daily Prayers, but have desired that the Almighty would never intrust me with more worldly Prosperity, than himself would enable me to enjoy to his Honour, and my own Salvation.

Indeed, Cousin, said Mrs. *Roberts*, you seem to talk somewhat enthusiastically, and I am afraid you have fallen into some delusive Teacher's Hands, who has stored your Head with these Notions. Why, Child ! you imagine it is but ask, and have of the Almighty ; as
it

if our Prayers were of any Worth to him.

Why then are we ordered to ask, if not to receive ? said Mrs. *Faulconer* ; nay, we are bidden to ask, that we may receive : Yes, farther, we are assured, that upon asking, we shall receive. Not that I am so stupid as to imagine, that every Petitioner receives the good Things, even of this Life, much less of a future State ; for that Word *ask*, though it is so plain a one, expresses not its whole Signification, without some Qualification ; for should a sturdy Beggar ask an Alms of me, as if he would threaten my Head for a Refusal ; or in so remiss a Manner, as if he cared not whether I granted it him or no ; or only because it was his Custom to ask all Passengers ; but neither believed me able, or willing to give him ; think you he would be likely to speed with me ? No surely ! though I was ever so able, I should scarce be willing to part with any thing to such an indignant Petitioner ; whereas, should some poor Wretch, fully sensible of his own Indigence, with a Heart affected with his Condition, in the Humility of his Spirit, and a just Confidence in my Ability,

Ability, and Willingness to relieve him, state the Misery of his Case to me, and in a Reliance upon my Mercy to him, seek Relief from me ; how could I imagine myself excusable, for refusing so modest a Supplicant ? Nay, whenever I should after encounter the same Object in my Walks, my own Hand would fly swifter to my Pocket for his Comfort, than his Tongue would move to demand it of me.

So that not every one, said Mrs. *Faulconer*, that can form his Tongue to ask, shall receive ; but he only, that from a Sense of his own Weakness and Imbecility, shall come before his Creator, in Confidence of his Will and Capacity ; shall be lowly in his own Apprehension, for his past Offences, and sincerely penitent for their Commission ; shall purpose to obey his Master's Will for the future, and in the first Place, pray for his Divine Assistance to perform it, and then accustom himself solely to the Exercise of what he knows, or believes to be to the Pleasure of his Benefactor, and never, for any Consideration, deviate from it : He, I say, and must insist, is alone intitled to ask with Confidence ; and he it
is,

is, so sure as there is an over-ruling Providence, shall, in the Scripture-Sense, receive.

Well ! Child, said Mrs. *Roberts*, you will be too many for me, I find ; but let us not leave the young Lady, your Companion, alone so long ; it will be very rude in us. Whereupon Mrs. *Faulconer* broke off her Argument, and they both descended to the Parlour.

Mrs. *Faulconer*, after some Discourse on various Subjects, inquired of Mrs. *Roberts*, when she last saw or heard from her Mother-in-law ? O ! said Mrs. *Roberts*, she is the most unhappy Woman breathing. She lost your Brother about a Twelve-month ago, which proved almost a Heart-breaking to her ; but Time began to diminish her Grief on that account, and she was looking out for some other Purchase, I believe, in such another Husband as thy Father, my Dear, if she could have found him ; for tho' she is worth so much already, nothing would down with her that had not his Bags well loaded.

She had just suited herself with one, that would have fitted her to a Nicety, when, as all had been concluded upon, the

the Wedding Cloaths made, and less than forty-eight Hours would have tied the indissoluble Knot; she was seized with a Sickness first, then with a Rash all over her, which in a few Days discovered its Malignity by such a Congeries of Pustules, as formed an entire Crust all over her Body, Face, Hands, and elsewhere, perpetually breaking, running, healing, and again collecting; but not in the least diminishing, though it is full three Months since the Disorder first discovered itself.

She has had all the Advice that Money can procure her, but without the least good Effect; her Physicians all declaring her Case to be new, and that they know not how to treat it; but add, that by its Process of discharging and collecting alternately, they are of Opinion she will never be otherwise to her dying Day. This, you may imagine, added Mrs. Roberts, to a Woman of Ambition and Vivacity, must prove a most horrid Calamity; but what still renders her Case the more deplorable is, that the Stench of her Wounds is so intolerable, that even her Nurses are obliged to be relieved from their Duty every Hour, or they

they would be poisoned with it. Judge then, my Dear, what the wretched Creature herself must suffer, continued Mrs. *Roberts*, who, though equally affected by it with others, is confined to her own Noisomness, without all Prospect of Removal, till she either recovers of her Distemper, or it ends her. Nay, added she, I am told, though I have never ventured to see her under this Malady, that her Impatience is so great, for what she is obliged to endure, that the gentlest of her Speeches run all in the Strain of Curses and Blasphemy.

Dear Cousin ! said Mrs. *Faulconer*, taking her by the Hand, had I ever heard this Account before, it might have spared me much of my above-stairs Argument ; for if the Case of this poor Woman justifies not what I insisted upon, equally with the Case I proposed of my own, and that upon Reflection, in a most convincing Manner too, I must for ever pronounce myself unworthy of judging upon Right and Wrong.

After a Stay of three or four Days with Mrs. *Roberts*, and gaining a Promise from her for the Repayment of their Visit, they returned, having first
desired

desired Mrs *Roberts* to bring with her all the Intelligence of Mrs *Isaacson*, that she could possibly furnish herself with.

C H A P. XVI.

Mr. Faulconer's Answer to his Lady's Last. She invites him home. In Despair, not hearing from him. A Liking between Mr. Smith and Miss King. She hears disagreeable News of him.

THE two Ladies lived together in equal Love and Harmony, as Mrs. *Faulconer* had before with Miss *Gately*, till the Return of the Year ; when Mrs. *Faulconer* grew impatient for some Account of her Husband ; not that she could as yet expect an Answer to her's till the following Season ; but because every Testification of his Health and Safety was the most grateful News that could salute her Senses.

The Shipping was now all come in, but not a Line for Mrs. *Faulconer*. However, she put the best Face that she could upon it ; and rather imputing it to any Cause, than that of his Neglect

of her, she satisfied herself with concluding, that whatever he had designed her, was gone the same Way with the three first he had mentioned to have sent her.

At the Return of the second Year, she received an Answer to her Last, in the following Terms.

Mr. Hervey Faulconer, to Mrs. Olympia Faulconer.

‘ **S**HOULD I (my ever dear Wife)
 ‘ pretend to alledge the Receipt of
 ‘ an immense Pain, together with your
 ‘ Last to me, I am scarce able to conceive that you could credit me; but
 ‘ that this is actually as true, as that my
 ‘ Gratitude can never be sufficiently extended to our most munificent Patroness, for her favourable Exaltation
 ‘ of my beloved *Olympia*, from the very
 ‘ Dregs of Debasement, to the Excellency of temporal Advancement, I
 ‘ must take Leave to aver to you.

‘ O! my *Olympia*! how exquisite
 ‘ had been my Delight, to have had
 ‘ it in my Power (as I once had
 ‘ the greatest Prospect I soon should)

‘ to

‘ to be able to have elevated you, by
‘ my sole Means, from your servile
‘ Estate, to at least a genteel Rank in
‘ Life? How supreme had been my
‘ Felicity, could I have so done? But,
‘ my Dear, placing too much Merit to
‘ my own intended Benevolence to you,
‘ and pleasing myself upon the Expecta-
‘ tion of it, as my own Act; Fortune,
‘ I can plainly perceive, has interposed
‘ to my Conviction, that nothing ought
‘ by us to be promised ourselves, further
‘ than our Luck shall please to favour
‘ it: For alas! my *Olympia*! the Ta-
‘ bles are, to my Disgrace, turned upon
‘ me, who am now, myself, the Wretch
‘ in Indigence, and my sole Hope of
‘ future Benefits must arise to me, from
‘ thee.

‘ Unhappy Reverse of Fate! that
‘ robs me of the intrinsic Joy I had
‘ formed to myself, of your owing your
‘ future Happiness to me.

‘ My Dearest, I frequently repeat to
‘ myself a Proverb in every one’s Mouth,
‘ and wherewith I have long been ac-
‘ quainted, *All covet, all lose*; which
‘ was never more literally verified than

‘ in thy Husband ; for that no Man can
 ‘ have applied himself with greater Affi-
 ‘ duity to making a Fortune than my-
 ‘ self, I may take upon me seriously to
 ‘ affirm ; nay, that few Persons, in the
 ‘ Station I set out in, ever made more
 ‘ of it for the Time, I will venture also
 ‘ to maintain ; but alas ! my Love,
 ‘ aiming at an extravagant Premium for
 ‘ accommodating one of the Natives
 ‘ with all I had, his Failure has reduced
 ‘ me even below the Foundation I be-
 ‘ gan upon, and has left me involved,
 ‘ in some measure, in Debt here.

‘ This, by the Currency of my In-
 ‘ come, I shall soon pay off ; after which,
 ‘ since my dearest *Olympia* so lovingly in-
 ‘ vites me to the Enjoyment of her Af-
 ‘ fluence, she may depend upon my
 ‘ coming off with the next Shipping ;
 ‘ and this I believe will be by the Spring
 ‘ after next.

‘ I hope, my Love, that as Fortune
 ‘ hath, on both our Parts, declared itself
 ‘ for us, in the general ; though it has
 ‘ plainly distinguished you as its peculiar
 ‘ Favourite, it will never desert us of
 ‘ its generous Influences, till it has united

‘ us

‘ us again ; though when I think of
‘ thee, my Love, and that at the speediest
‘ Flight I can make to thee, near a Year
‘ must elapse, from my first setting for-
‘ ward to my Journey’s End ; I am so
‘ lost in the Distance to be passed, and
‘ the Time to be spent therein, as almost
‘ confounds me.

‘ As for the Means by which you
‘ have gained the Settlement wherein you
‘ now subsist, I must own, the Incidents
‘ are so unaccountable as to leave me but
‘ little Suspicion of my own Wakeful-
‘ ness, whilst I am pondering them in
‘ my Mind ; they seeming rather to af-
‘ fect my Senses, as a Dream, than a
‘ Reality ; and when I rouse myself from
‘ the Reverie they have cast me into,
‘ the whole Idea vanishes as an empty
‘ Scene ; till retorting upon myself that
‘ my *Olympia* says it, I bless kind Fate
‘ for our Happiness.

‘ How delighted should I be, to be
‘ sailing with this to my dear Wife, the
‘ sole Haven of all my blissful Hopes !
‘ But alas ! my Dearest, how many Tem-
‘ pests may still shake the Hulk of thy
‘ loving Husband, ere he arrives at his

222 *The MOTHER-IN-LAW ; or,*

‘ most desirable Port, in thy Bosom,
‘ where alone true Pleasures can be ad-
‘ ministered to him, who is thy

‘ *Most affectionate Husband,*

‘ HERVEY FAULCONER.’

Mrs. *Faulconer* observing the distant Period that her Husband had put to his Return, as there were some Ships then waiting for sailing Orders to his Coast, she hastened to Town, and dispatched away the following Answer to him.

Mrs. *Olympia Faulconer*, to Mr. *Hervey Faulconer*.

‘ *My dearest Mr. Faulconer,*

‘ **Y**OUR last kind Favour reached
‘ me punctually ; nor can I wil-
‘ lingly be behind hand with you in the
‘ Expressions of my Satisfaction for my
‘ Capacity to initiate you to the noble
‘ Estate I now enjoy ; but knowing that
‘ we are but Committees of our worldly
‘ Benefits, and that the absolute Disposal
‘ of

‘ of them at pleasure centers beyond our
‘ Reach ; I shall only implore our Pa-
‘ tron’s Favour for its Continuance, to
‘ both our Participation, so long as him-
‘ self sees fittest for us.

‘ As to your tarrying abroad, for the
‘ Discharge of trifling Incumbrances,
‘ what readier Way could you have
‘ found for that, than by Draughts upon
‘ me here, for whatever Money you
‘ should have Occasion for ? which Me-
‘ thod I intreat you to take, and to set
‘ forwards yourself, with the next Re-
‘ turns to *England*.

‘ As to any Dependencies you may
‘ have in the Country in future, despise,
‘ and quit them.

‘ I write this on board the Ship that
‘ brings it you, which waits till I con-
‘ clude, for sailing : So that I can only
‘ beg you, at all Events, to return, and
‘ wish you a safe and prosperous Voyage
‘ to

‘ *Your most dutiful, and*

‘ *Loving Wife,*

‘ OLYMPIA FAULCONER.

‘ *P. S.* I should have sent Money to pay
 ‘ your Debts, but knew not what, or
 ‘ whether Bills, or Money, would be
 ‘ most acceptable.’

Mrs. *Faulconer* now imagined, that there would be little more to be done, upon her Husband’s Receipt of her Letter, than for him to set forwards upon his Voyage home ; wherefore, she contented herself to count the sliding Months and Weeks, making frequent Calculations, from what had passed, of the Time when she might reasonably expect him ; but first one, and then a second, nay a third Year had almost expired, before she had so much as been blessed with a Line from him : So that at length she began to despair of ever hearing further from him.

She had made several Applications to the *India-House*, but no Account of his Death, or otherwise, had been transmitted to them ; so that the Uncertainty of what might have become of him proved a Fund of the most pungent Anxiety to her, which yet she weathered with such a prudent Resignation to the Will of Providence, as few Wives, so captivated
 to

to a darling Man as she was, could have attained to.

It was much about this Time, that a young Gentleman, the Heir of a very rich Planter at *Barbadoes*, lately deceased there, having settled his Affairs abroad, was come over to *England*, to reside here, upon the Remittances from his foreign Plantations, having left two noble Estates there, under the Direction of each a several Overseer, and had fixed his Habitation on the Skirts of *Hertfordshire*, where he had purchased a fine old Seat; and having established his Family and Equipage, wanted nothing but a Lady to grace his Table, and regulate the Affairs of his Family: For after the Manner of our *American* Transports, he lived in the most elegant Manner.

This young Gentleman having, from his Infancy, received his Education at *Winchester* Shool, looked upon himself as a Native of *England*, not having been out of it more than six Years, when he returned to it again.

Mr. *Smith*, for that was his Name, keeping abundance of Company, happened one Day to be visiting at Sir *R——b H——d's*, where Mrs. *Faul-*

coner and Miss *King*, at that Time, were upon the same Errand to the Lady and her two Daughters; they all dined together; it being usual for distant Visitors not only to drink Tea, but also to dine, and frequently to lie at the House of the visited Persons.

Mrs. *Faulconer* and her Companion purposed returning home that Evening, as also did Mr. *Smith*, each living about twelve or fourteen Miles distant from Sir *R——b's*, though to almost opposite Points of the Compass; but the Afternoon setting in with such Thunder, Lightening, and excessive Showers, as the like were scarce to be remembered, all the Company, in Compassion to their Servants and Cattle, at the Request of the Baronet and his Lady, at length concluded upon passing the Night there, and deferring their Return till Morning.

With the setting Sun, the Sky clearing up, and all the foul Weather being blown off, it soon after became so serene and moon-light, that the Ladies proposed a Walk in the Fields, under the Guidance of that Luminary; but it not agreeing much with the old Lady, Mrs. *Faulconer*,

Faulconer, in Compliment to her, stay'd within to keep her Company.

Miss *King*, during all Dinner-Time, and afterwards, whilst he associated with the Ladies, could not forbear stealing many Looks at Mr. *Smith*, who was as personable a Man, and as agreeable in his Deportment, as one shall meet with amongst a Thousand ; nor could she but flatter herself, that she now and then had caught him in the same Exercise at her. This ran so much in her Mind, that as she was upon her Walk with the young Ladies, she could not forbear enquiring who that Gentleman was that dined with them that Day ? O ! said Miss *Kitty*, (the elder of the two) that, Madam, is my Sister *Sally's* Sweetheart.

The Uneasiness this Report gave to Miss *King*, though she could render no regular Account why, occasioned her wishing she had had her Demand back again ; for she grew so confused in her Mind as to wish she was at home again : Neither the Solitariness of the Place, the Beauties of the Moonshine, or her Companions Society, administering the least Solace to her discomposed Fancy ; but as the Gamester, when once a Loser, runs
all

all Lengths for reinstating his Bank, till at length he becomes a Bankrupt ; so Miss *King*, being no Gainer upon her first Query, hoped, either from the Disagreeableness of his Circumstances, or some other Under-valuation of him, to recover herself from the Terrors she found herself under, for the prior Engagement of his Affection.

She therefore demanded, whether the Gentleman was of that Country ? and if he was a Man of Fortune ? Miss *Kitty* replied, that he was of *Barbadoes* by Birth, and that his Estate lay there ; but that most of his Days had been spent in *England* ; that he lived about twelve Miles from her Papa's, having lately purchased a charming Seat there, and supported it like a Nobleman, from the Revenues of his Plantations, remitted to him annually from abroad : Adding, he wanted no one Thing in Life but a good Housekeeper ; and that *Sally*, she said, had determined he should not be long without.

Miss *King* could have digested all but the young Lady's last Sentence, which she could have wished down her Throat again ; but now she had so far engaged
in

in the Argument, she was resolved to go through with it, and know the worst at once : So that, Miss *Sally*, my Dear, said she, is all this true that your Sister tells me ? and are you resolute in the Surrender of your Liberty to that Gentleman ?

Poh ! Poh ! my Sister talks at Random, Madam, said Miss *Sally*. The Gentleman may have said some pretty Things to me, but what of that ? there go many Words to the Bargain, usually, before the connubial Tie is accomplished ; not but that I must say, was I at Liberty to choose for myself, I should not well know where to fix my Election preferably to Mr. *Smith* ; for that I verily believe him a good humoured Man, and all the World must allow him to be the Gentleman ; besides, that he needs yield to very few for personal Accomplishments.—But to tell you the Truth, Madam, added she, I believe *Sally* has a sneaking Kindness for him herself, or she would not ever be dinning my Ears about him as she is : for I durst to swear it is only for some Occasion to have his Name in her Mouth.

By

By this Time they were returned home to Supper ; but the Rivalship of these Ladies about Mr. *Smith* was so far from abating Miss *King*'s Appetite for him, that it rather whetted it up to a keener Pitch ; insomuch, that she resolved to make critical Remarks upon his Behaviour to them all, at Supper-time, and to form her Judgment solely from her own Observation.

Mr. *Smith* behaved altogether debonaire to the whole Circle : He eyed the Ladies in Turn ; nor were they in the least deficient in the Return of the Ogle, as Occasion best presented ; but whether it was really so, or whether Partiality and Inclination introduced the Belief, is uncertain ; but Miss *King* could not but think she held as fair a Share of his Esteem as either of Sir *R—b*'s Daughters ; for Mr. *Smith* was so unexceptionable a Man, that few Ladies need take Shame at being peculiarly noticed by him. But now the Night was wasted, and called the whole Family to Bed ; where we must leave the Ladies to their several Surmises, each as her Inclination led her.

C H A P. XVII.

Mutual Passion, but neither Party knows it. Miss King melancholy at parting. Discovers the Cause to Mrs. Faulconer. Miss King's Thoughts of Love. Uncertain whether Mr. Smith had been to pay her a Visit. Egregious Blunder of Richard the Footman. Much ado to make any thing of him. Conclude it was Mr. Smith.

AFTER Breakfast the next Morning, the Company all made a Shew of advancing to their several Homes; when the Baronet and his Lady as earnestly pressed for their all staying Dinner, as the others insisted upon their Departure. They came upon a Visit of Ceremony, they said, and should take up their Quarters till they were troublesome.

The Lady, on the other hand, alledged how late in the Day it was, before Breakfast was over, insomuch that her Guests could not get home in Time for bespeaking their Dinner, which on all hands would occasion a Disappointment; that

that her own was already ordered, and probably, by that Time, in Preparation ; and then she put the Question to Mr. *Smith*, what he had to say against it ?

Madam, replied Mr. *Smith*, your Ladyship may rest satisfied, that from the Society of so many pretty Ladies, I shall not be the first to propose a Separation. Pray let the Ladies determine your Question, whom I could heartily wish guided by like Motives to my own ; as to my Part, your Ladyship shall find me passive.

Her Ladyship then put it to the Ladies ; when Mrs. *Faulconer*, looking at Miss *King* to learn how she stood affected, from her Reply of, Just as you please, Madam, soon gave the casting Voice, from the Inclination she perceived in her Companion for staying till Afternoon.

Love is said to be arbitrary, and I will allow it in the general to be so ; but Love most certainly begets its like ; for the Inducement to affect the admiring Party is so strong, as scarce once, in ten Instances, to fail.

This kindled a mutual Passion in the Breasts of Mr. *Smith* and Miss *King* ;
for

for though she had no further Notion of him than in general, at first ; yet her Conceit of his admiring her kept her so watchful of his Eye, and its Movements, as insensibly drew her into such an Approbation of him, as surprized her into a real Love for his Person, past shaking off at her Option ; nor could she have suffered under more Reluctance for any Event, than that of parting with Mr. *Smith*, as she might reasonably imagine, for ever.

The Ladies had scarce been three Days settled at home, before Miss *King* (who had, during the whole Time, struggled all that was in her Power for the Subduction of a Passion, from which she had not the least Expectation of Benefit) grew so uneasy and thoughtful, that Mrs. *Faulconer* took Notice of it to her, by demanding the Cause of so sudden an Alteration in her Behaviour ; assuring her, that if any Thing, or Person, in her Family was offensive to her, she would take Order for its rectifying, to her Satisfaction.

Miss, perceiving herself taken in the Manner, would have shuffled it off, if possible, upon a slight Indisposition she
pre-

pretended to have ; but the Covering was too thin to shelter her from the Eye of the judicious Mrs. *Faulconer* ; who insisted, from what Remarks she had made upon her Conduct, for the two or three last Days, that her Disquiet was rather mental than corporeal, and desired her to be so free as to disclose it.

This drew forth the Secret ; for Miss insisted, that she could attribute it to no less than the Passion of Love.—Love ! my Dear, said Mrs. *Faulconer* ; pray, if without Offence in so tender a Point, added she, as that of Love, may I know the happy Man that has had this Influence over you ? I am satisfied, replied Miss *King*, that you will laugh at me for a Simpleton, when I shall assure you, that no Force I am capable of exerting, will in the least remove from my sleeping or wakeful Imagination the very living Person of Mr. *Smith* ; who is, in my constant Apprehension, as clearly before my Eyes, as ever we saw him at Sir R——b's ; nay, we have had several Conversations together ; nor those, many of them, the most unpleasing neither, I can assure you ; but from whence I can be Fool enough to encourage any such vain Fancies,

Fancies, I cannot imagine ; though part with them I cannot, were it to save my Life.

Mrs. *Faulconer* asked, whether he had spoken to her at all :—Only by his Eyes, she said ; though she allowed, her own Fancy only might dictate to her every Sentiment she had interpreted his Looks into ; but be that as it would, she said, the Man clung to her Brain like a new Tune, which demands an uninterrupted Reiteration ; and whether the Hurry her Spirits were in would subside, when his Idea had wasted itself in her Mind, or not, she could not say.

Was you ever in the same Condition, upon the Sight of any other Person, before ? said Mrs. *Faulconer*. Never, to her Remembrance, Miss said, or any ways like it ; nay, it might not be Love, for aught that she knew, she said ; for that she seemed to seek no particular Purpose in it, further than an unaccountable Pleasure at the Recollection of somewhat in him, not ascriptable to any Man she had ever before seen.

Mrs. *Faulconer* assured her, she was plunged over Head and Ears in Love, and heartily wished her well out of it ;
since

since she was afraid, that the Object she had introduced to her Affection, was situated without her Reach; not but that, she said, were such a Thing to be compassed with his Approbation, it should not be a little Matter of Portion that should divert him from her: for that, though her Husband was too remotely placed for her to procure his previous Consent, yet she was as certain of his future Concurrence to so laudable a Purpose, as if she had advised with him upon the Subject.

Miss returned her abundance of Thanks for her good Will to her, though there scarce seemed a Possibility of her experimenting the Favour, she said; but added, that in her Opinion, Custom had abridged her Sex of many Privileges, as natural to them as to the Males; amongst which, an Incapacity for proclaiming their Sense of the other Sex, without suffering under the Imputation of Immodesty, was none of the most inconsiderable.

Not a Week had passed before Mrs. *Faulconer*, one Day, took Miss *King* out in the Coach, upon some trifling Affair to *Worcester* with her, merely for her Amuse-

Amusement, and to divert her from a too intense Application to Mr. *Smith*. She had told the Servants she should not be back till Evening, intending to dine at *Worcester*.

At their Return at Night, one of the Servants told them, that a Gentleman had called in the Morning, about an Hour after they took Coach, to enquire for his Lady; and that, upon hearing she was abroad, he had asked for Miss *King*; but his Lady having left Word she should be abroad all Day, he no sooner heard that, than he rode off again.

The Ladies were under such a Consternation, at the Thought of who this Gentleman should be, that the Fellow moved off without any further questioning by them. As to Miss *King*, Mr. *Smith* being uppermost in her Mind, she would fain have persuaded herself, that it could have been none other than him; whilst Mrs. *Faulconer*, for want of so agreeable a Motive for fixing this Stranger to any particular Person, was still more at a Loss to know who it should be; but her Mind resting at Ease, be he who he would, she contented herself upon the Assurance, that if his Business
was

was of any Importance, it would not be long e'er she should see him.

Miss *King* could not pass over this Accident, which she termed one of the most unlucky that could be, without a further Scrutiny: So that, Dear Madam, said she, I cannot persuade myself but this Gentleman might possibly be Mr. *Smith*; at least, I please myself at the Conjecture that it might be him; and yet, neither of us once thought of asking *Richard*, what sort of a Man he was; for one might have formed some Guess at his Person, from *Richard's* Description of him.

Well! *Richard* was recalled directly, and the Question put, as to the Bulk, the Height, the Complexion, the Voice, the Age, and what not, of the Stranger that had created them such Perplexity: but after near half an Hour's catechising the honest Fellow, they were but the more bewildered, as to the Identity of the Person suspected; for as to his Height, no true Judgment was to be made, *Dick* said; but according to his present Thoughts, he was but a short Man, tho' he allowed he looked otherwise as he sat on Horseback: By his
great

great loose Coat, he said, one might have took him for a bulky Man; but then, it was possible, had his Horseman's Coat been off, he might have appeared but a slim one; nor could he well remember what Voice he had; but believed, by his Looks, being a good likely Man, he might be about forty, and was of a manly Complexion.

He asked him his Name, he said;—
Ay, said Miss, that was right; and had you told us that sooner, it would have spared us the Time spent upon these Questions and Answers, which have hitherto but little forwarded the Affair.
— So — come — to the Point, added she, what did he tell you his Name was?

I have one of the most unlucky Heads in the Creation, said *Dick*, at remembering Names. — What a-pize makes me so forgetful? — But Madam, added he, it was so common a Name, and I remember I thought so, that there would be no Occasion for striving to remember it. — Hey day! — why it was the Name of a Trade I am as used to as my Victuals. — What's to do? — Why, — O Madam! it was *Farrier*; ay, I thought of my Horses at the same Time. —

True

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True — it was *Farrier* — so it was. —
Ay, ay, *Farrier*, that was the very
Name.

The Ladies having gained full as
much Light into this mysterious Affair,
as ever they were to expect to get from
Richard, they dismissed him; when Miss
King asked Mrs. *Faulconer's* if she had
ever been acquainted with any one of that
Name. She denied her Knowledge of
any such Person; nor indeed had she
ever heard of any one so called; but a
Conjecture starting in her Brain, my
Dear, said she to Miss *King*, I am now
more than ever inclined to your Opinion,
that this Stranger must have been Mr,
Smith himself.

No, no, replied Miss, there could be
no manner of Reason for his calling him-
self by a wrong Name; besides, the
Suspicion it might create in our Breasts,
whenever hereafter we should know it
was he that called. I care not for that,
said Mrs. *Faulconer*, I would venture a
good Wager, from all that has passed
in this Affair, that it was Mr. *Smith*
only.

Don't you remember, added she, that
Dick said, his Name was that of a Trade,
and

and put him in mind of his Horses? Now, *Horsenail*, my Farrier, is a Smith by Trade; nor is he ever stiled Farrier, but when conjoined to Cattle. If my Man wants his Horses drenched, he goes to *Horsenail* the Farrier; but if my Cook wants her Jack cleaned, or her Poker mended, she sends to *Horsenail* the Smith; yet this Smith, and that Farrier, are one and the same *Horsenail*. We'll call *Dick* again, and see what further we can make of him.

Mrs. *Faulconer* then again demanded of *Richard*, what was the Gentleman's Name who had called in their Absence; for that it might prove very material to her, to be ascertained who it was? The Fellow replied, he had already informed her Ladyship that it was *Farrier*. It is true, said his Lady, you did so; but I am afraid you have made a Mistake, and have given me a wrong Name. Dear me! Madam, replied *Dick*, can you believe I know my own Name? If I am certain that my own Name is *Crowdy*, so sure am I that the Gentleman, whoever he was, said his Name was *Farrier*.

Harkee, *Richard*, said she, tell me truly; but first consider well with your-

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self:

self : Did not the Gentleman say that his Name was *Smith* ? — *Smith* ? said *Dick*. — By my Faith, he did so. — *Smith ! Farrier !* — No, in Troth, I humbly ask your Ladyship's Pardon, it was certainly *Smith* that he told me : And not *Farrier* ? said Miss *King*, you are positive. — No, no. — *Farrier !* — No — Surely ! I think it was not *Farrier*, said *Dick* ; though my Head is so confused between the two Names, that which ever starts first in my Brain, I believe to be it ; but I would venture a full Year's Wages upon the Side of one of them.

Perceiving that *Dick*'s Senses were so muddled, that they might have persuaded him to any thing ; Miss *King* concluded, that they had gained nothing at all by their Enquiry ; but Mrs *Faulconer* would not give up the Cause so readily ; being assured, she said, that it was Mr. *Smith*, who had been to pay his Compliments to them ; but both condemned the Stupidity of *Richard*, for receiving a Name, and giving himself no more Concern to remember it.

C H A P. XVIII.

Mr. Smith meets the Ladies at Home. His Affection for Miss augmented. But declares not his Mind. An Argument between the Ladies. He visits Miss. Would have her Consent to Marriage. Refuses till he knows her Fortune from Mrs Faulconer. She declares it ten thousand Pounds. Nuptials celebrated. Retire to Mrs. Smith's.

THE Ladies had not remained doubtful of the Character of their Visitor more than two Days, before *Dick*, as they were at Breakfast one Morning, having made it later than usual, came running into the Room to tell them, that the Gentleman was just rode into the Yard, and was delivering his Horse to *William*.

Miss King asked, what Gentleman ; when *Dick* replied, he did not care to say who it was, lest he should be mistaken, but he believed it would not be long before he would bring them is Name himself. *Miss*, being pretty much in Disbille, and hoping she might have some

Interest in the Visitant, asked, whether it was not Mr. *Smith*? But *Richard*, unwilling to be drawn into a further Premunire, replied, it was the same that his Lady said was so called. Upon which Miss left the Room with no little Precipitation, leaving Mrs. *Faulconer* to welcome him.

After the usual Compliments had passed, he begged Pardon for his Rudeness in waiting upon her, to whom he was so nearly a Stranger; but she, having so far to go, when he left her at Sir *R—b's*, with another young Lady, he could not rest satisfied, till he had inquired how they got Home, and seen that they were both well. He then desired to know how the other young Lady did, who was her Companion at Sir *R——b's*; and whether she lived with her or not?

Mrs. *Faulconer* replied, that she was very well, but was above, dressing herself; nor indeed, would he have found her at other Employment at that Time of the Day, had not they breakfasted unaccountably late that Morning; but as he had caught her in an Undress, she would not leave him till Miss *King*, whom she would apprize of his Arrival, should

should come to keep him Company in her stead.

They then fell into Discourse of the general News of the Country; after which, they descended to Sir *R——b's* Family; when Mrs. *Faulconer*, desirous, if possible, to discover whether her Friend bore a Share in his Affection, began, by saying how deserving young Ladies the Miss *H——d's* were, and wondering they were neither of them married yet; though she told him, she heard that Miss *Sally* had a Courtier, and was very glad of it, hoping he would prove a good one, as she thought her a most amiable Lady.

She watched Mr. *Smith's* Reply very narrowly, not doubting but from it, she should be able to conclude upon her Friend's Fate, and whether this Visit was ceremonious only, or with any real Design upon her. Mr. *Smith* then coolly replying, he doubted not but every Lady had her Mate designed for her, who in good Time would put in his Claim; but that the Lady, in his Opinion, shewed but her Imprudence, who was for anticipating her Fate, by the Expectation of a Lover in every Beholder;

gave Mrs. *Faulconer* all the Room that she hoped for, that he was no ways pre-engaged to Miss *Sally* ; however, she might flatter herself with the Conjecture.

Miss *King*, in the mean time, knowing who waited, we may be sure had not been so careless, as not studiously to have adjusted every Part of her Dress, into as becoming and ornamental a Guise as possible ; which detained her longer, after she was summoned, than herself could have wished to be absent ; but now, with neither a Hair or a Pin misplaced, she approaching, Mrs. *Faulconer* took leave of Mr. *Smith*, just to slip on her Things before Dinner, she said, whereat, she must insist upon his Company ; to which, with a low Bow, he assented.

Mr. *Smith*, thought he greatly admired Miss *King*, when he saw her at Sir R——b H——d's ; and though her Person and Behaviour at the Time I am speaking of, rather augmented than diminished his Passion, insomuch that his Resolution was now more than ever confirmed for making her his Wife ; yet he was not that fond Lover to rush inceremoniously upon his Suit, at first Sight ; till Conversation, and Parity of
Senti-

Sentiments, having familiarized them somewhat to each other, he might, from the Course of her Carriage to him, better judge what would be like to prove the Success of a Negotiation for Marriage between them : So that tho' Miss *King* waited, not only at their present Conference, but also at another after Dinner, (when Mrs. *Faulconer* purposely withdrew herself for a Time) for a Declaration of his Passion for her ; he nevertheless reserved that to a fitter Opportunity, as he thought ; so that the Hour being now come for his Departure, having first thanked the Ladies for the favourable Reception he had met with, and begged Leave to be admitted on future Occasions to pay his Compliments to them, he took his Leave and left them.

It would be trifling, should I enumerate the Variety of Conjectures these Ladies had, relative to Mr. *Smith's* Visit to them. Miss *King* insisted, that it could have no other Motive than an idle Curiosity, to know who, and what they were, and their Manner of living in the World : For that, had his Journey been undertaken upon her Account, he would never have missed two such Opportunities,

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nities, as he could scarce ever hope for
again, of divulging his Affection to
her.

Mrs. *Faulconer* seemed to take quite
the other Side of the Question: For
that, though if he had taken a Fancy to
her at first Sight, yet common Prudence
would engage any Man, for his better
Information, as to her Manner and
Accomplishments, to associate himself
to her, not only a second, but a third
Time, and oftner too, before he in-
volved himself in so intricate an Affair,
as that of a professed Lover; which,
unless judiciously weighed beforehand,
he might not afterwards be able to escape
from, without deeper Scars to his Ho-
nour, than a Man of Character would
chuse. I am therefore of Opinion, added
she, that he will soon be with you again,
and if so, you have him sure enough.

It is an unhappy thing, said Miss, to
have no Fortune, [or at best, such a
one as is next to none: For what
is one thousand Pounds in the World's
present Estimation, but just sufficient
for setting up a piddling Grocer, or some
such mean Occupation? So that in good
Truth, I could almost wish, as well as

I love him, that I may see no more of him : For as he, they say, is rich, I do not doubt but he will want an Equivalent ; and after he has professed himself in my Favour, should the Match break off at last, for my Insufficiency, it will be a far more shocking Circumstance in my Mind, than a Disappointment, before it is ripened into a real Affection on both Sides.

I have told thee, my Dear, said Mrs. *Faulconer*, that for a small Matter he shall not desert you, all Things else concurring ; and this I repeat again, that you may depend upon it : So that I would have you behave, just as if you was Mistress of whatever he may fairly demand with you, and when it comes to stick there, only leave the rest to me.

Suppose Madam, said Miss, that he should ask me what Fortune I have, you are sensible, that if I tell a Man of his Substance a thousand Pounds, his next most likely Step will be into his Saddle, and he will fly the Country.

I am not for your making him any such Reply, said Mrs. *Faulconer* ; only assure him, that your Fortune is in my
M 5 Hands,

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Hands, and that I will ascertain it to him, to a Farthing.

Just as Mrs. *Faulconer* had imagined, Mr. *Smith*, in about ten Days time returned again; but then he, at first Word, inquired for Miss *King*, which put her in Heart exceedingly: Nor did he part with her, till he had opened his Inclination to her. He laid before her the Estates he had Abroad; the Purchases he had made since in *England*, and his whole Stock of ready Money; with the Bulk of all which she was so confounded, when she reflected what a Mite her own Stock, with whatever Mrs. *Faulconer*, at best, might be presumed to add to it, would appear, in Comparison with it, that she was ready to sink at the Apprehension of what would ensue, and could have been glad he would have contented himself, without further Prosecution of the Affair.

However, this Visit, and one or two succeeding, were made without the least Demand of her Worth; and more than probable it is, that he might have proceeded even to the Ceremony itself without it; but at a future Visit, pressing her above Measure for her verbal Consent

sent to become his Wife, that she might not be cast off after yielding to his Suit; Sir, said she, you seem rather prematurely importunate with me to become your Wife, till you have apprized yourself of my Fortune; for probably, that not answering your Expectations, by then deserting me, you may testify, notwithstanding all the fine Things you have uttered of my Person, that your Addresses were rather paid to my Fortune, than to me; and as that proves deserving or not, so I may either be received, or become an Outcast: For which Reason, Sir, added she, before we make either further Demands or Concessions on either Side, as my Fortune is altogether in Mrs. *Faulconer's* Hands, I must desire you, by her to inform yourself of it, that your future Proceedings with me may not prove foundationless.

Mr. *Smith* professed, that he adored her more than ever, for the ingenuous Disposition she had exhibited in this Affair; but protested, that both his Eye and Heart being fixed upon her own intrinsic Worth, every the adventitious Gifts of Fortune, were esteemed wholly inconsiderably by him; yet, as the larger
her

her Fortune would turn out, so many more of the Elegancies of Life she might have in Expectation; so, though he by no Means built any Hopes of his own upon the Quantum, he should have no Enmity to the Bulk of it, let it amount to ever so much, for the Reason he had just mentioned.

This favourable Acknowledgment of Mr. *Smith*, giving Miss vast Hopes, that the Tenuity of her Circumstances would not prove a Dissolution of his Pretensions to her; she was all Impatience, till Mrs. *Faulconer* had satisfied him in the pecuniary Article, for she longed to have that Rub, from whence only she could suspect an Impediment to their Nuptials, removed; hoping that she might then reasonably entertain all his future Professions with Transport: So that making an excuse for a Moment's Absence, she sent in Mrs. *Faulconer* to him, not doubting, but as herself had before requested, he would soon engage her upon the Topick of the Fortune.

Mrs. *Faulconer*, in order to contribute all that was in her Power towards Miss *King's* Advancement, in the Way herself so much approved, complied; nor had she

she been long seated, before Mr. *Smith* told her, that he presumed she had been apprized by Miss, of the Occasion of his so frequent Visits. That truly, he discovered, at every successive Meeting she had favoured him with, somewhat more engaging and valuable, both in her natural Endowments, and acquired Qualifications, than he had ever before remarked, which made him more than ordinary anxious for making her his Wife; and then proceeded, to ask what Fortune she might have?

Mrs. *Faulconer* replied, that the Estimate he had taken of Miss *King*, was very far from an unjust one: Nor could she believe him a cursory Admirer only of the young Lady, from the Minuteness of his Observations upon her. For which Reason, she must beg to be plain and open with him, that the Lady's Fortune was but a round ten thousand Pounds, which perhaps, he might not judge adequate to his Estate, in case he should prove of the same mercenary Principles with most Men, intended for Husbands, in the present Age.

She confessed; she had the less Suspicions of that sort attributable to him,
for

for that the Worth of the Lady was not made one of his Queries, introductory to his Courtship: For in most Cases, added she, the Lover's Stock rises, or falls, proportionately to the Dividend the Fair can produce to him; she could not say, she told him, though Miss *King* might have a pretty Fortune as the Times went, that she would be able to count down what a Man of the Substance he was reported to possess, might demand upon a *Smithfield* Bargain.

I do assure you, Madam, said Mr. *Smith*, that the Request I have offered to you, relative to Miss *King's* Fortune, was from no real Motion of my own Heart, but solely in Compliance with her Desire: For whether she had Possessed much, or little, would neither have furthered or retarded my Application to her; not but I am glad to hear from you, that her Fortune is even beyond my Expectation; that it may silence those Tongues of my Relations, who, in a contrary Case, (my Marriage proving so destructive to their Interests) might have clamoured at my Nuptials, and that, with Justice too, in the Eye of the prejudiced World.

Miss

Miss *King* by this Time returning, Mrs. *Faulconer* gave Place to her, and retired; when Mr. *Smith* saluting her, my Dear, said he, I have done as you commanded me; but let me tell you, that I see no Reason you could have for putting me over to Mrs. *Faulconer*, for an Account of your Portion, when you might with so ample Credit to yourself, have nominated half the Sum, to a richer Man than I am, as accompanying your Person.

Miss knew not what Mrs. *Faulconer* had done, nor could she conceive he would have laid such a Stress upon half her real Worth: So that truly, she said, as Mrs. *Faulconer* was a better Mistress of the exact Sum than herself, she rather chose he should hear it from her, than from herself; that for her own Part, she had little thought of it for a long Time; but pray, added she, what might Mrs. *Faulconer* now rate it at?

He told her ten thousand Pounds; at which, Miss had much ado to suppress all Testification of the Joy that so instantly seized and surprized her: For this she had learned by his Information, not only that she had the most generous
of

of Benefactresses in Mrs. *Faulconer*, but that she might, with just Propriety, carry her Head somewhat loftier than she had before done : So that upon treating about her Settlement, she held him closer to her Demands, than otherwise she could have had the least Pretence to. Every Day now Cementing the Familiarity and Freedom with each other more and more, all Preliminaries being expeditiously adjusted, their Nuptials were celebrated at Mrs. *Faulconer*'s, and at Mr. *Smith*'s return Home with his Bride, Mrs. *Faulconer* made one of their Party.

Mrs. *Faulconer* stayed about a Fortnight with them, at Mrs. *Smith*'s earnest Intreaty, during which Time, she saw so much more of Mr. *Smith*'s real Temper, than she had ever before an Opportunity for, that she left Mr. *Smith* at last with these Words, that if all her Penetration failed her not, Mr. *Smith* had so little of the native *American* in him, that under discreet Behaviour on her Side, she could not fail of being a happy Woman.

C H A P. XIX.

Mrs. Faulconer resolves for India. Impowers Mr. Roberts to transact her Affairs. Dissuasives from the Voyage. She is obstinate. Makes her Will. Generous Transaction with her Servants. Visits Mrs. Smith. Arguments against her Voyage. Answered. Affectionate Expression. She sets sail.

MRS. Faulconer now living alone, without a constant Companion to elevate her Spirits, upon any Return of Melancholy for the long Absence she had sustained of her Husband, without the least probable Fixture of the Time of his Return; she grew daily more and more overcome by the Vapours: For now more than ten Years had elapsed since he had left her, and three since she had heard a Word from him, notwithstanding she had wrote to him to come over: However, she wasted away still another Year, in hopes of some favourable Event; when being able to gather no News of him, she was forming a Resolution in her own Breast, for taking a Passage,

Passage in the next Shipping for *India*, in order to recover him ; being determined rather to become an Exile from her native Country, than to continue one of the most miserable Creatures in it, under an indeterminate Privation of her Husband.

She had revolved this for several Months in her own Mind, till at length it became so familiar to her, that having conquered her Prejudice to the Seas, the Climate, the Distance, and the Company she should there meet with ; her Husband's Person opposing itself to all that had appeared terrible in such a Voyage, she contracted with Captain *B—t—s* for her Passage and that of a Maid Servant, and laid in all Requisites for the Voyage.

Having about a Month's spare Time upon her Hands, before the Vessel would be sailing, she returned into the Country, to give Orders for the Adjustment of her Affairs there ; when considering for how long Time she must necessarily be absent, and probably for much longer than she could expect, she posted away to her Cousin *Roberts*, and signifying to him her Determination, with much ado prevailed on him to accept of the over-
looking

looking her Estate, the Collection of its Rents and Revenues, and generally all other her Affairs, in her Absence.

Mr. *Roberts* and his Lady, looking upon this Scheme of Mrs. *Faulconer's* as one of the maddest and most desperate they had ever heard of, made use of every Argument they could any ways muster up against it. Would ever any Lady upon Earth, they said, Mistress of the noble Estate she possessed, and so delightfully situated in Life, project a Dismission from every Enjoyment that might afford her, merely for the sake of a vagrant, perilous, and detestable Course, that no one who could avoid it, would by any means engage in?

Had she reflected, they asked her, how she could relish a Jail but for a few Weeks, either pent up in some noisome Lodging by herself, without a Tythe of the Conveniencies of Life about her, or else commixed with such an Association of abandoned and reprobate Companions, as would cause the Heart of an honest and virtuous Woman to tremble at their Curses, Imprecations, and the general Tenor of their Behaviour? If she had not as yet exercised her Imagination

tion upon these Things, they advised her impartially to do it forthwith ; and when she had filled her Mind with the blackest Ideas producible from a just Deliberation upon the Place, then to amplify them in a tenfold Proportion, and conclude that they would fall far short of that infamous Society she must be conjoined to for many Months on board of Ship, during so tedious a Voyage as she had projected.

Mrs. *Faulconer* allowed, that their Representation of Things might be very just, for aught that she could urge to the contrary ; but insisted, that, as to the tortured Body, even a Shift of Position failed not of administering some Relief ; so, the least that she could propose to herself from the Voyage would be, all that Solace which an Alteration of Place could dispense to her distracted Soul.

She therefore intreated her Cousins to oppose her Resolves no more ; for that, come Life, come Death, she was absolute in her Pursuit of them.

Mr. *Roberts* at length consenting to transact her Affairs in her Absence, she constituted him her Attorney for that Purpose,

Purpose, and then made her Will ; wherein, after some few Legacies, she appointed him her Executor ; and in case of her Husband's Death before her, she made Mrs. *Smith* her universal Heir.

Having settled this with Mr. *Roberts*, she returned home, with Intent to have dispersed her Family ; but upon viewing all her Servants, some of whom had lived many Years with Mrs. *Gately*, and had come to her Hands with the Estate ; and reflecting upon the Distress it must be to them to be all discharged from her Family together ; and for some of the Elders of them, who had been many Years fixed upon the Freehold, to be of a sudden transplanted involuntarily into an unaccustomed Soil, her Heart bewailing their Disappointment, she resolved not to lay the Difficulty upon them ; but, as the Expence out of her Revenue would be so trifling as scarce to be felt, she called them all together, and put it to them severally, which of them had any Thoughts of leaving her, either at present, or at any future determinate Time ; insisting upon their severally giving her a genuine and punctual Answer to her Demand.

The

The poor Creatures, who all loved their Lady as their own Mothers, could not but imagine, that she must have had somewhat as officiously as falsely represented to her, as either reported, or done by them to her Dishonour, which must have occasioned this Question; but an Answer being expected directly, her own Chambermaid, who said she could only speak for herself, replied, that if her Lady should find no Objection to her Service, she would gladly extend out her whole Life in it.

The Butler, who for the seventeen last Years of his Life had served Mrs. *Gately*, Miss, and his then present Lady, said, he humbly hoped his Lady had no View of parting with him; assuring her, that if he had been guilty of the least Offence against her, it had been through Ignorance, and was wholly unknown to him. He had already been so long in the Family, as to have been scheduled over to two new Mistresses, and verily believed it would break his Heart, should he, causelessly, be dismissed her Service.

The House-maid said, that though she could not plead so long an Attachment

ment to her Lady, as some of the rest of her Fellow-Servants might, yet, the Delight wherewith she had served so humane a Lady, for the whole Time she had been with her, had so engaged her to her Place, as to believe she should part from it with no less Reluctance than the oldest Stander of them all.

The next, to whom Mrs. *Faulconer* put the same Query, was the Cook, who professed, that if it should be her Fortune to remain a Servant all the Days of her Life, she should pray that it might be to her then Lady, How long, indeed, she might serve her, she could not tell, she said ; but whenever she should leave her, by her own Consent, it should not be for any other Service.

Mrs. *Faulconer* told her, she spoke so mysteriously, that she knew not what to make of her, and ordered her to speak out, if she had an Intent for leaving her, and when she had designed it should be.

Hannab, for so was the Cook's Name, faltering in her Answer, and blushing exceedingly ; Madam, said *William*, who as Coachman stood next upon the Muster-Roll, if your Ladyship pleases to give me Leave, I will take upon me to help
Hannab

Hannab out a little, in what she may not chuse to divulge in public, before all her Fellow-Servants.

I am fully persuaded, Madam, added he, that *Hannab* has no Dislike to your Service, from the immense Difficulty I have found in persuading her, at length, to leave it : For, Madam, continued he, to speak but the real Truth, we have so long been Fellow-Servants here, that we have each laid up no little Sum of Money, for People in our Stations, which we have at length resolved to join together, with our Persons, in hopes of a comfortable Support from thence, in a Shop-keeping Way, or else in some good Inn, if any such offers in the Neighbourhood. Now truly, Madam, said he, had we been as willing to part from you, as I hope we both are for a more intimate Union between ourselves, we had neither of us now been your Servants ; but the Dread of that has occasioned our lingering so tediously, before we could fix our Resolutions ; and I hope, upon the Terms I have mentioned, your Ladyship will, in good Friendship, now release us both.

In

In short, the whole Bench of Servants having passed through the same Examination, not one was to be found but who professed a Reluctance at the Thought of parting from their Lady; which gave her so vast a Satisfaction, that though her Intent remained fixed for leaving them, yet she would not dismiss them her Service; but informing them of her Voyage, she ordered them all to remain in their Places, till herself should return, if ever she should be so happy; if not, and she should die on her Voyage, she told them, that her Cousin *Roberts*, to whose Care she had intrusted all her Concerns, would find Orders in her Will for making them all happy; and in the mean Time, till her Return, would not only constantly pay them their Wages, but allow them the Expences of House-keeping.

As to you, *William* and *Hannah*, said Mrs. *Faulconer*, I give you your Option, either to stay or go; but in the former Case, lay no Restraint upon you against Matrimony, in which Situation your Wages and Board shall be allowed you, with other of my Servants, unless you shall rather choose to depart; and then

I will leave Orders with Mr. *Roberts* to pay you a Hundred Pounds, to set you both forwards with.

I have one Charge, added she, that I must leave with you all, and wherein I hope you will obey me ; that is, in my Absence, to live prudently, discreetly, and virtuously ; for Idleness begets Wantonness, and is the Parent of most Vices ; therefore, keep yourselves employed, keep regular Hours, and be temperate ; attend the Church-Service so oft as it is performed, as you will have no Avocation from it ; be attentive there, covet Instruction, and practise whatever good Notions you imbibe there : For this, whether ever you see me again, or not, will be a Portion neither subject to Time, or Accidents in Life, to bereave you of.

Mrs. *Faulconer's* Behaviour had filled her Servants Hearts so brim full of Gratitude, that their Affection for so tender a Lady, and the Dread of her leaving them, so over-charged them with Sorrow, that they were unable, by their Tongues, to express the Sense they had of her Goodness to them ; but what they wanted in Words, was made up by their Tears, for their expected Loss of her ;
when

when perceiving them all under such Confusion, she withdrew herself from the melancholy pleasing Spectacle, and left them.

She had now only a Visit to pay to Mrs. *Smith*, before she set out for *London* to embark ; and this she was obliged to be expeditious in, lest she might arrive too late for her Purpose ; which, after the Solemnity of her Preparations, would have proved an irrecoverable Disappointment to her.

She forthwith let Mrs. *Smith* into her Design, who was so shocked at the unexampled Resolution, that she took her roundly to Task, for daring to attempt so presumptuous an Undertaking ; and not only by herself, but her Husband also, who had several times crossed the Seas, painted the Rashness of the Enterprize in such tremendous Colours to her, as might have terrified a Heart less resolved than that of Mrs. *Faulconer*, who with the most placid Countenance imaginable, having received the briskest of their Fire, replied, that justly, indeed, had she fallen under their Censures, had she formed such a Design, without previously weighing its Consequences.

She assured them, that there was little of what she had heard from them, nor indeed any thing of it that was most material, but what she had already brought to Account, not only under the most dismal Circumstances that it could really be attended with, but even the most extravagant that Imagination could depict. She had represented to herself the Contention of all the Elements, in their most collected Rage and implacable Fury, with herself, subjected to their Mercy ; the hopeless Condition of the Mariners, even to the splitting of the Timbers under her, and her Descent with the whole Crew to the Bottom of the Ocean ; but would retort upon herself presently, What of all this ? Is there any thing near so abhorrent in being no more, as in living for ever from my Husband ?

Can it be possible, think you, my Dear, said she to Mrs. *Smith*, that I can subsist free from a continued and impetuous Commotion in my own Bosom, as a widowed Virgin, deprived not only of my most dear Husband's Person, but of all Certainty of his very Existence ? and this, not only for a certain Time,
with

with hope of speedy Information, but indefinitely? Could you, Child, added she, decline to run all Risques, and not, rather than drag the weighty Clog of Life, gauled and fatigued with the ponderous Burden, face the acutest Dangers with intrepid Heart, in Prosecution of your only Hope, where only casual Death, in Possibility, might interpose, to render your Wishes abortive?

How many daily traverse the great Ocean, through pathless Waters, tending to the Point that I now aim at, and yet return successful for their Toil? Then why not I? who equally rely upon the Aid of Providence on Water as on Land, on whatsoever Soil it matters not; the almighty Arm is not confined to Place; but the whole Universe being alike his Work, is so alike his Care.

Am I then, think ye, more infamous than all others who sail the Ocean, that Vengeance should await me there, whilst others escape? I will not think so, knowing otherwise; and then, why stand not I full fair for that Protection which so many Thousands annually enjoy? I may reach safe to this desired Shore,
and

and may return again ; if no more happy in recovering my Husband, yet with this Certainty, to curb my Sorrows, that I shall know him lost ; when Judgment and Religion both forbid immoderate Grief for what is past Recall.

Suppose the worst ; I perish in the Voyage ; I am then at rest, nor fear I to be happy.

Enervate not my Resolution by your Tears, my Dear, added Mrs. *Faulconer* ; this may be ordered by unerring Guidance, to reinstate you in your Heritage, by my Decease ; for I have left my Will in Mr. *Roberts's* Hand, wherein I have given you near all that I received, through the Bounty of your Relations to me ; and surely, that may well compensate your Loss of such a Wretch as I am.

O ! no, my Dear, said Mrs. *Smith*, rather let me perish on some Dunghill, in need of every Support of a human Being ; or let these Hands, in vilest Drudgery, by arduous Labour, earn the Pittance that only may support this brittle Fabrick from a total Fall, than Millions should be added to my Store,
by

by the Loss of a single Hair from the Head of my most trusty Friend and generous Benefactress.

The Time being now arrived that these two Ladies must be separated, their Farewel was so moving that Mr. *Smith* could no ways stand it; but left them to themselves, to breathe their Wailings in each others Bosoms; till Mrs. *Faulconer* ordering her Coach, took Courage to salute and leave Mrs. *Smith*, ordering the Coachman to take the direct Road to *London*.

Mrs. *Faulconer* had so many Affairs to settle, and so many Things to do, before she left the Country, that she had exceeded by about three Days the Time the Captain had limited her to; but he telling her he should fail about such a Time, she could not conceive he would have been so punctual, as she after found he had; for upon her Arrival in Town, she was informed that he had fallen down to *Gravesend* three or four Days before, and that it was believed he was by that Time sailed for the *Downs*; so that staying but one Night in Town, though she had many Things

Things to buy for taking with her, she
set forwards for the Coast of *Sussex* in
the Morning, and by good Fortune got
on board there; where we shall leave
her, pursuing her Voyage, till we shall
have Occasion, in the next Volume,
to give some Account of the Success
of it.

End of the First Volume.

